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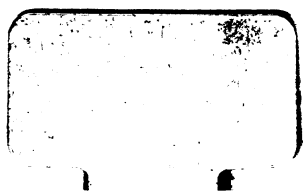
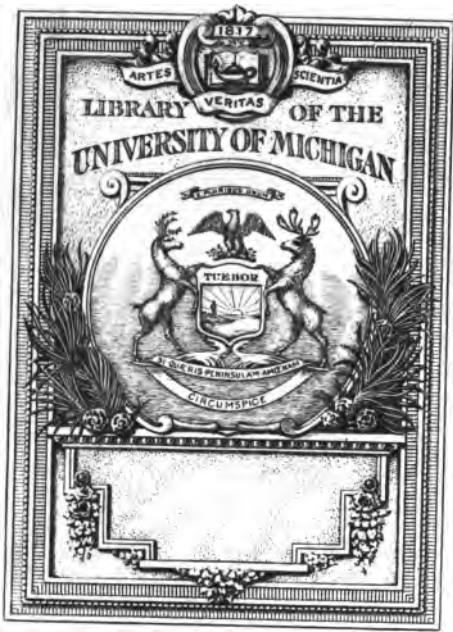
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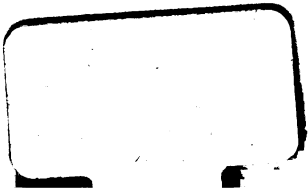
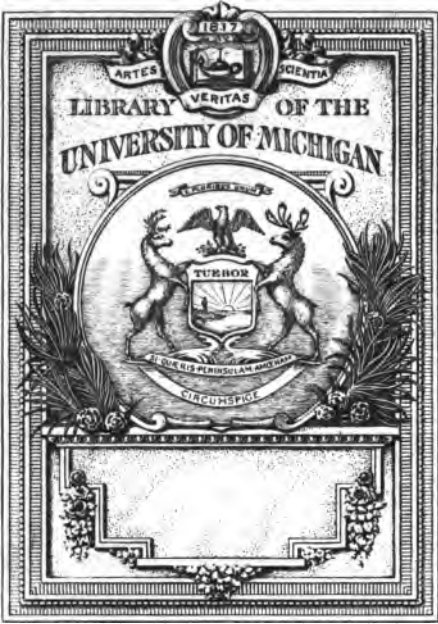
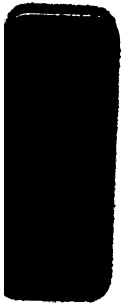
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KINAHAN CORNWALLIS, DELT.

LADIES WITNESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTORS, AT NAGASAKI.

STANNARD & DIXON, LITH.

# TWO JOURNEYS TO JAPAN.

1856-7.

BY

KINAHAN CORNWALLIS,

AUTHOR OF "THE NEW EL DORADO; OR, BRITISH COLUMBIA,"  
ETC. ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE AUTHOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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*Directions to the Binder for placing the Illustrations.*

**VOL. I.**

To Face Title Page. Ladies witnessing the Theatricals at Nagasaki.

Page 24. Scene off Simoda.

Page 82. A Street in Simoda.

Page 166. The Governor of Hakodadi and suite while witnessing the wrestling match.

Page 252. A Japanese funeral procession, Nagasaki.

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**VOL. II.**

To Face Title Page. My Nagasaki friends, Nooko-tooka and Tazolee.

Page 206. A Buddhist Temple, Nagasaki.

ERRATA, VOL. I.

Page 204, first line, for *four* read *three*.

Page 235, add to the end of the second line, *said the mistaken doctor*.

## PREFATORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

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THE island empire of Japan occupies an insular position off the east coast of Continental Asia, and opposite to the Sea of Japan, and the Gulf of Tartary and Corea, from which it is separated by Manchooria, and is consequently the most easterly part of our hemisphere; thus the sun rises over Jeddo eight hours earlier than it does over London. Its name, Nipon, popularly called Japan, and known to the Chinese as Yang-hoo, or Jihpun-kwo, signifies *land of the rising sun*.

The first allusion made to the country by any European was that contained in the narra-

tive of Marco Polo, the celebrated Venetian voyager, written in the Latin tongue, at the close of the thirteenth century, and while the writer, then a prisoner of war, was detained within the gloomy precincts of a Genoese dungeon.

But little is known to Europeans, even now, as to the actual area and population of the empire; and notwithstanding my own personal endeavours in that respect while there, I was unable to inform myself of the desired facts. The Japanese authorities, however, know the amount of their population to an individual. They are, in my opinion, the best counters extant; for I alone had the pleasure of being counted about five hundred times during my short stay in the empire; moreover they possess, by virtue of their police system, every facility for counting; and I am cognizant of the fact, that each of the eight provinces, sixty eight departments, and six hundred and twenty-two districts into which the empire is divided, has its particular measurement registered in the imperial books.

The empire comprises five large, and two

hundred small islands, exclusive of numerous islets, and with all its dependencies, including the Lew-kew group, and the Kurile archipelago, it extends from the 24th to the 50th degree of north latitude, and from the 123rd to the 151st degree of east longitude. To the north it is bounded by the sea of Okotsk, and the independent portion of the island peninsula of Sagallen; to the east by the North Pacific Ocean; to the south by the eastern Sea of China; and to the west by the Sea of Japan, which communicates with the ocean by the Straits of La Perouse, of Sangar, and others running between the various islands. Of these islands Nipon is the largest. Its length is more than sixteen hundred miles, while in breadth it ranges from one to three hundred miles.

Kiusiu, or Ximo (of which Nagasaki is a port) is a hundred and fifty miles north to south, by two hundred and twenty east to west. Sikoff is about a hundred miles in length by sixty in breadth. Of the rest I am unable to speak.

The gross area, as also the amount of population,

viii PREFATORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

have been variously estimated by the Dutch, but their statements and calculations have been founded more on mere supposition than on any reliable authority. Two hundred and sixty-six thousand, five hundred square miles is the most modern computation of the former, and fifty millions of the latter; they are but guess statements, nevertheless I am disposed to consider them, although, perhaps, exaggerated, as accurate as any former ones having reference to those points.

We have yet much to learn of, to us, so wondrous and unexplored an empire as this of the eastern seas, which can boast of a civilisation older than our own, and of a history and a literature as ancient as they are copious, and as they bear testimony to the enlightenment of generations.

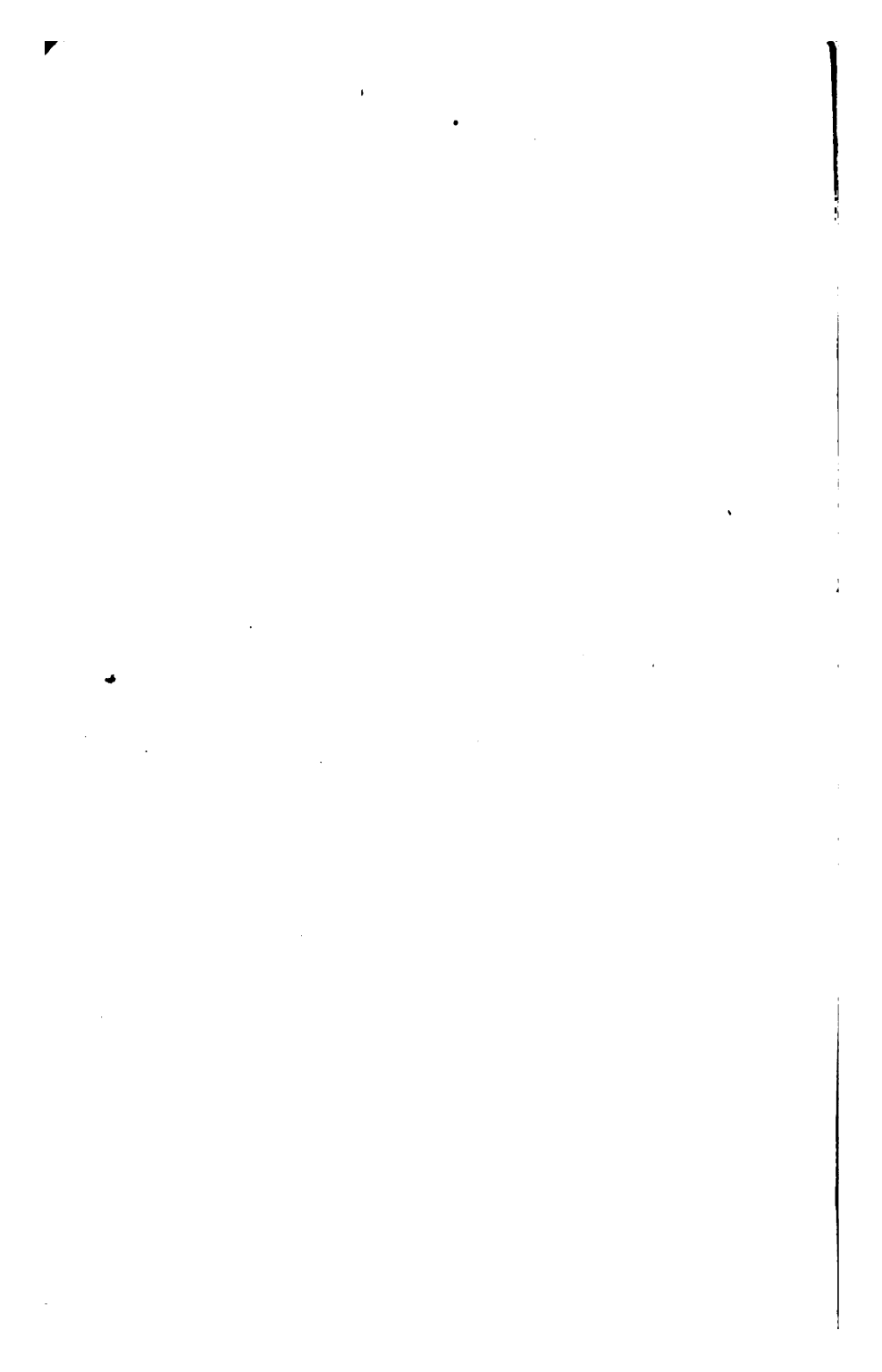
**TWO JOURNEYS TO JAPAN.**

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**JOURNEY THE FIRST.**

**VOL. I.**

**B**





# JOURNEY THE FIRST.

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## CHAPTER I.

Far in the east a wondrous people dwell :  
Behold yon islands ! there their empire lies.—  
Land of Japan—whose lengthy annals tell  
Tales of deep wonder, and whose glory vies  
With nations that have trumpeted their fame ;  
But these, no idle vaunters, long have dwelt  
Secluded from the world—known scarce by name,  
Enlightened in their own creative light.  
Nature to them had prodigally dealt  
Her rarest treasures ; and in rapid flight  
Invention sped, and with artistic hand  
Created, and then beautified ; and they,  
Three thousand years ago, in their own land  
Were civilised ; since which, with mighty sway,  
Two rulers have their sceptre wielded wide,  
Grand in their pomp, and lofty in their pride.  
But now behold that isolated realm  
With golden portals newly thrown aside !  
To it, henceforth, let Commerce point the helm.

Land of the east, I love thy sunny clime,  
For I have wandered o'er each island shore  
That forms thy empire, and there, oft the time,  
Have gazed on beauty. But, alas! no more  
Is it for me thy virgins to behold,

Thy hills to range, thy mountain peaks to scan.

Oh! would I could thy beauties here unfold,

Preach loud thy fame and laurel thee, Japan!

But vain the task; 'tis more than e'er I can:

As well the rainbow paint, or strive to mould

Thy bright-eyed daughters. So farewell to thee,

Gay land of my long pilgrimage, and though

There rolls between us, now, a mighty sea

Of spray-decked waters, leaping as they go,

Still do I oft in memory survey

Thyself and thine, and court the grand array.

AUTHOR.

ON a bright and balmy day in the month of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the long, dark hull of an American sloop of war rounded from the eastward the wooded heights of Cape Izu, and entered the picturesque but unprotected baylike harbour of Simoda, on the great island of Nipon, in the empire of Japan. I was on board that sloop.

Near the mouth of the bay, and on its western side, was presented a beautifully indented cove, the entrance to which was nearly

hidden by an islet, bearing an aspect of the most inviting, yet luxuriant repose, covered with slim yet stately trees; rich in blossom and in verdure, and, as seen from a distance, more suggestive of the idea of some gigantic bouquet than solid land.

As we passed, I caught a glimpse of several large junks, moored in this almost insular sheet of water. The surrounding hills, rising, panorama-like, one beyond the other, were clothed and terraced with cultivated crops, and a profusion of flowery vegetation and thick overhanging woods; while, here and there, far as the eye could carry, clumps of trees, resembling fortifications in their compact density, lent diversity to the pleasing prospect. Almost cloudless was the sky, ambient was the atmosphere, cheering were the playful beams of the resplendent sun. And this, said I, is the land of peace and plenty, favoured by nature and improved by man; where wealth was ever abundant and poverty unknown; which owns within itself a civilisation distinct from that of any other nation on earth, the reigning ancestry of whose chief emperor dates back more than two

thousand five hundred years, and whose people care not to mingle with those of lands beyond their own. This, said I, is Japan, the sealed and isolated realm of mystery.

On nearing the first fortifications, which pointed eighteen rather formidable-looking guns, we were boarded by a barge load of shaven-headed, mostly two-sworded officials, and shortly afterwards, to our great astonishment, by ten individuals, which included four ladies, clad in European costume, speaking unmistakable English, and evidently of Anglo-Saxon origin. The combined party were ushered below into the ward room, where we proceeded to entertain them to the best of our ability. Our friends of the white skin proved to be Americans, who had some short time previously arrived from the Sandwich Islands with an assorted cargo, intended to meet the demands of whaling vessels, and who, upon the discharging of their schooner—such was the craft—were to have reloaded her with Japanese wares for the San Francisco market, while they themselves were to remain in the land of mysteries for trading purposes with the whalers alluded to. They

were now living in a temple a little way in shore, to which they freely invited us. We were all eager to know how they came into possession of the temple, and, indeed, how it was that they were ever allowed to reside in Japan. In explanation of this, we learnt that a year or more antecedent to their arrival, a Russian frigate had been seriously injured by an earthquake, (which was also productive of much disaster in the town), while lying at anchor in the harbour of Simoda, and had subsequently foundered while being towed into the more protected port of Ha-da, by seventy Japanese boats, for the purpose of undergoing repairs. Her crew, five hundred in number, who had previously been sent ashore, were, as a consequence, left without alternative on the hands of the Japanese, while the latter, no doubt somewhat awed by so formidable a body of armed men, were compelled to assign them quarters and provision until such time as a vessel might arrive to convey them back to their own country.

A large temple at Kaga-zaki, a small but picturesque village of some hundred and fifty houses, near the mouth of the harbour, was therefore placed at their disposal, which, after being subjected to

few alterations, made them a comfortable abode. These marine warriors were still lounging through its roomy saloons and gilded passages when our enterprising brethren from the Sandwich Islands (tempting lands for the hungry) arrived, and were, to their surprise, boarded by a Russian officer instead of the Japanese. The latter now suggested that the Russians should take passage in her ; but, as this could not be done till the vessel had her cargo discharged, it was suffered to be landed, and it was further determined that so long as their schooner was employed in the transportation of the obnoxious servants of the Czar, they, the Americans, should have the free use of the temple with, and after, the Russians, as well as being allowed a house in which to store their vessel's cargo.

Soon afterwards, the Russians retired to the more secluded port of Ha-da, to avoid discovery by the English and French cruisers—the news of the termination of the Crimean War not having then reached them—one officer and five men being alone left in charge of the temple which had been allotted to their use. The schooner had just now returned from Kamt-

chatka for a second load of the Northmen. We were just beginning to regale ourselves with some bottles of French punch, when the Russian officer in charge of the temple, and his interpreter came alongside in a handsome barge—Japanese of course—and was introduced to us. The punch was in active requisition. The warrior of the land of Moscow baffled his interpreter by the rapidity and continuity of his utterance, which was accompanied by energetic gesticulations, and, finally, by a most enthusiastic and pressing embrace of the sailing-master. We put this down to the punch. Unaccustomed as he was to drinking it, he applied himself freely to the task, and its effect was soon manifested, but still very good-humouredly.

This display of fraternity on the part of *le Russe* was not lost on the Japanese portion of the assembly, who, having drunk about twice as much as anyone else, were quite prepared to take advantage of any such demonstration to relax their sober countenances, and become jovial. When they had first drawn up to the table, which, be it known, they did with a graceful dignity of demeanour quite in keeping with

their general character, but contrasting remarkably with the rougher manners of the Yankees, we had intimated by unmistakable signs our curiosity to see their swords, of the beautiful polish and temper of which we had heard so much; they then universally refused to draw them, expressing their surprise and wonder in horrified glances and mysterious shakings of the head. Now, however, under the influence of the general hilarity and the punch, they confidently unsheathed, and allowed us to examine them.

Before leaving the vessel they openly took notes, in writing, of nearly every thing they saw on board, and this in the minutest manner. They were each provided with a pocket-book, carried in the girdle, from which was suspended an ink-bottle, as also a wooden tally, on one side of which was painted or carved the name of the wearer, together with his rank and the duties of his office, and on the other side bearing the seal of the Emperor or other high officer by whom they were issued.

Some of these military mandarins manifested a greater amount of curiosity than their fellows;



but all made themselves tolerably well acquainted with the uses, measurement, and construction of every thing on board, from the exact length, depth, and breadth of the vessel itself to the number and weight of her guns—the weight of the shot they threw, and the amount of gun-powder necessary for each charge. As each of these officials had authority over some distinct province in the vicinity, so each was required to board every strange craft entering the ports within their prescribed territories, and institute special inquiries for his own satisfaction, independent of his fellows ; as well as to note down the names of all the other Japanese officials on board. By such means the Emperor obtained the fullest information on each subject, gathered from the testimony of his respective officers ; while neglect of duty on the part of any one of them would be at once made manifest.

We rounded-to, and anchored well in with the shore, nearly abreast of another fort, which displayed twenty-four pieces of ordnance. Here we were again boarded by about twenty additional mandarins, who came alongside in about as many boats, while a fleet of half-a-

dozen junks came sailing past us. The latter were of beautiful construction, far superior to the Chinese craft, and in outline more resembling our modern clippers. Some of them had but one mast, and that placed very far aft while the rest had two masts; the sails of each junk bore a distinguishing mark, which could be read by the initiated at a considerable distance.

The mandarins' boats were rigged in a manner similar to the junks, and had across their large white sails one, and, in some cases two black bands or stripes; and one, a sort of flag-ship, had a large black diamond painted in the centre of her mainsail. Each boat was numerously manned by a crowd of half-naked, gossamer-girdled men, who did all the propelling work by sculling. While so engaged, they stood and worked their long and somewhat bent skulls at the sides on projections from the gunwales; this they did in perfect unison, each man chaunting a monotonous refrain, and every alternate man swinging his body in an opposite direction to the one next him, which left the one pulling and the other pushing. The rowers thus vibrating, assisted the impetus, and preserved the

steady position of the boat as she rapidly skimmed the water. The mandarins themselves were dressed in loose shirts and trowsers, both of manufactured cotton, with an admixture of silk and flax ; over the former they wore a second kind of shirt, made of a coloured muslin ; into the centre of the back of this outer garment was wove a device, being what we should term the arms or crest of an individual, while on each shoulder of the same the device, in part, was repeated. Their sleeves were large, and fastened by a sort of bracelet at the wrist. Over the trowsers they wore a kilt or half-closed petticoat of richly flowered silk, which was fastened round the waist by a broad and handsome girdle striped with gold lace and jewelled. Within this girdle were stuck two swords, the universal sign of rank in Japan, one about three feet in length, and the other about two ; the handles and scabbards belonging to these were variously ornamented, and many of them were encased in leather, or covers of red cloth. Stockings of blue silk and sandals of fine straw, as also crimson-coloured hats of the brightest lacquer, completed their attire. The former were so con-

trived that the great toe was separated from the other four to provide for the passage of the red velvet band holding the sandal, and which joined another from the heel at the ankle, where the two were tied together in a double bow.

The blades of the Japanese swords are very highly burnished, and their owners have a superstitious objection to drawing them, save for actual service: it was quite an exceptional case our being allowed to handle them in the ward-room, during the punch drinking.

As soon as the new arrivals had satisfied their curiosity after the manner of the first barge-load of officials, they one and all left the ship, giving us to understand that we were not to ascend the bay beyond the point at which we had now anchored, and that as soon as we could make it convenient they would be glad to witness our departure.

It was raining when our guests left the ship, but, nevertheless, several of us, armed with umbrellas, set out in one of the boats for the beach. We landed between Kagasaki and the sea, and followed the beach until we reached the outskirts of the former, when we were quite taken by

surprise at the number of pretty girls and children that emerged from their houses to obtain a sight of us. They exhibited an anxious curiosity and interest on our behalf, which was quite flattering.

The news of our approach flew on in advance of us, so that our path was kept lined with the beauty of the place, each damsel with her fancifully-painted umbrella overhead, and her stilt-like sandals under foot. There was a degree of sprightliness about their manner, and of sober intelligence about their looks, which, at once ingenuous and kind, denoted the unruffled temper and amiability which I subsequently found to be the universal possession of the women of Japan. Sincere and without guile, they are the most faithful and virtuous of women, — so much so, that both males and females bathe in an entire state of nudity in the one public bath room, of which there are many in every town throughout the empire.

It may seem strange that I should put this forward as an evidence of their morality; but it will only appear strange to those whose minds have become narrowed to the so-called civili-

zation of Europe, who have ever been beset by vice and infamy, who have lived in a world of perfidy and corruption, where social life is perpetual warfare, and where each lusteth for that which is another's, or preyeth upon his neighbour—where the one treads down the many, and toil and misery urging on to premature death, is the pervading feature of the Social System. To such an one, I say, it may appear strange, but let him contemplate the fact in a neutral light, and he will come to the conclusion that this public bathing custom is indicative of an innocence, which to us, nurtured in a baser element, is quite unknown. Sin bringeth shame, *i.e.* our original parents in the garden of Eden, we are told, did not make to themselves aprons of leaves till after they had violated the commandment.

However, I am not going to enter into a biblical dissertation—therefore to my narrative. There was a grace and retiring modesty about the women, coupled with an evident desire to understand our language, which it was interesting to witness, and I never regretted anything so much as not being able to hold converse with them.

The people of this particular district had seen so much of the Americans during the two visits of Commodore Perry, that they approached us without fear. As we advanced, the children made a strange pantomime, and one batch actually cried out—"How do *you* do?" and held out their hands for the purpose of our shaking them. I noticed one little shaven-headed fellow with a shake to his entire satisfaction and seeming delight, after which he strutted back to his less adventurous companions, with the stately step of a conscious hero.

Simoda is built on a plain, eighty miles from the metropolis of Japan, and at the opening of a fertile valley, on the western shore, and near the extremity of the outer bay of Jeddo, hence its name, which signifies "lowland." In front of the town a stream winding from the eastward has its embouchure into the bay, through a series of dykes, which are there constructed inside of an extensive breakwater, for the safe mooring of small junks and boats. Docks of serviceable capacity, devoted to junk and boat-building, closely adjoin the dykes, and numbers of workmen were constantly employed there during the

time of our stay. Near these docks, and backed by the beautiful foliage of cypress and camphor-laurel trees, is the landing-place.

In entering the town, that which first impresses the visitor is the silence and inactivity which everywhere pervades the streets.

He will see numerous shops, each with their fronts removed during the day, and surmounted by signs bearing some fanciful device and characters, things no doubt, exceedingly appropriate, but strangely unintelligible to one not versed in the mystic language of the empire; but he will be struck with the stillness and apparent do-nothingism which is their universal characteristic. The population of the town is about eight thousand, and one fifth nearly of this number is composed of traders and artizans.

The houses number about twelve hundred, and the streets which they constitute are about twenty feet wide, and run at right angles.

There are gutters and sewers which afford the most perfect drainage in each street, conveying the refuse and superfluous water either into the bay direct, or through the small river before-mentioned, which traverses one portion of the



town, and is there walled in on either side by stone masonry, and crossed by four wooden bridges.

The streets are intersected with wooden gates, dividing the town into wards, each ward being under the special care of one particular officer, and upon the hollow posts of these gates is written the name or other designation of the street and ward. A fire-engine of unique construction, which throws the water in intermittent jets, is exposed in its appointed shed in every ward; while large tubs of liquid mud, in each of which a sort of brush is stuck, are elsewhere to be seen, intended to answer the same end in the case of an outbreak of fire,—an event not uncommon in these regions of wooden residences. Looking over the walls of the river at high tide, I frequently saw flat-bottomed junks and boats moving to and fro, generally loaded with stone, or agricultural produce; the depth of water at such times being from four to five feet, these small vessels were enabled at full tide to sail direct into the dykes.

In addition to numerous inferior shrines, Simoda boasts of nine Buddhist temples, and

one large and magnificent Sintoo temple. Several priests and acolytes are attached to each of the latter, and are supported by the gifts of the devotees, and the fees appertaining to the burial and other services.

Since the treaty of Kanagawa, by which the port was opened to the Americans, Simoda has been constituted an imperial city. There is a governor or general superintendant of the municipal and commercial affairs of the place, with a lieutenant-governor or treasurer, who attends to the financial interests of the place. Subordinate to these are a numerous body of bugio—two-sworded officers—who, in their turn, exercise control over various collectors, interpreters, and inferior officers connected with the various departments of the government administration.

A walk of about a quarter of an hour between the two rows of houses that lined the beach, brought us quite unexpectedly in front of a large wooden structure, to which several of the crowd that followed us, pointed with the explanatory exclamation — “Roos!” “Roos!” which we rightly took to imply, that we were facing the quarters of the shipwrecked Russians

in general, and our friend of the French punch and the Sandwich Islanders in particular. We deemed it right to make a call. We turned at right angles into the broad and shady avenue, which, after a length of some sixty yards, terminated at the foot of a massive flight of stone steps, at the top of which was an equally massive-looking portal, guarded on either side by an indescribable monster of hideous mien, carved out of wood, and fancifully painted.

We passed between these frightful statues or some unknown divinity, and entered upon a square, level, and lawn-like space, about an acre in extent, in the centre of which rose the picturesque form of the temple, from which a Japanese grave-yard extended as far as a thickly-wooded hill, which overlooked and lent antitheses to the view. This graveyard was a singular sight, very unlike any other necropolis I had ever seen, yet not to be mistaken for anything else. It was laid out in walks and beds, after the fashion of a French flower-garden, and contained hundreds, I was going to say thousands of small stone images, that varied in size from five or six inches to about three feet. These

were distributed without much regard to the beauty of effect, being piled together like so many bricks, or scattered about in the most convenient corners and crevices. Some were even stuck up in the spreading branches of the trees, and others again that, having been put at the foot of a tree between two roots, had become so wedged in and surrounded by the growth of the tree that their removal was no longer practicable, without involving the destruction of such. These, the Sandwich Islanders informed me, were the tombstones intended to denote the spot where reposed the ashes of—anybody and everybody. But they were mistaken; all these images were heads of Buddha, or commemorative of that deity.

As we entered upon the cleanly-swept space in front of the temple, and looked round us, we saw a dozen or more of two-sworded officials lounging about in the yard, while a still greater number were smoking their pipes of fragrant tobacco in the spy-house. These latter were the superiors, who in a dreamy state of enjoyment awaited the frequent reports that were brought to them by the outsiders, in regard to

every movement of the occupants of the temple. We were no sooner inside the gate than we were counted, and half-a-dozen officers noted down with their paintbrush-like pencils our number and nationality, and instantly proceeded to the spy-house, where, from the steps of the temple, I saw them sink upon their knees, and hand the slips of paper to the lazy smokers—their superiors.

We were met at the summit of the steps by the Russian officer, and the Americans from the Sandwich Islands.

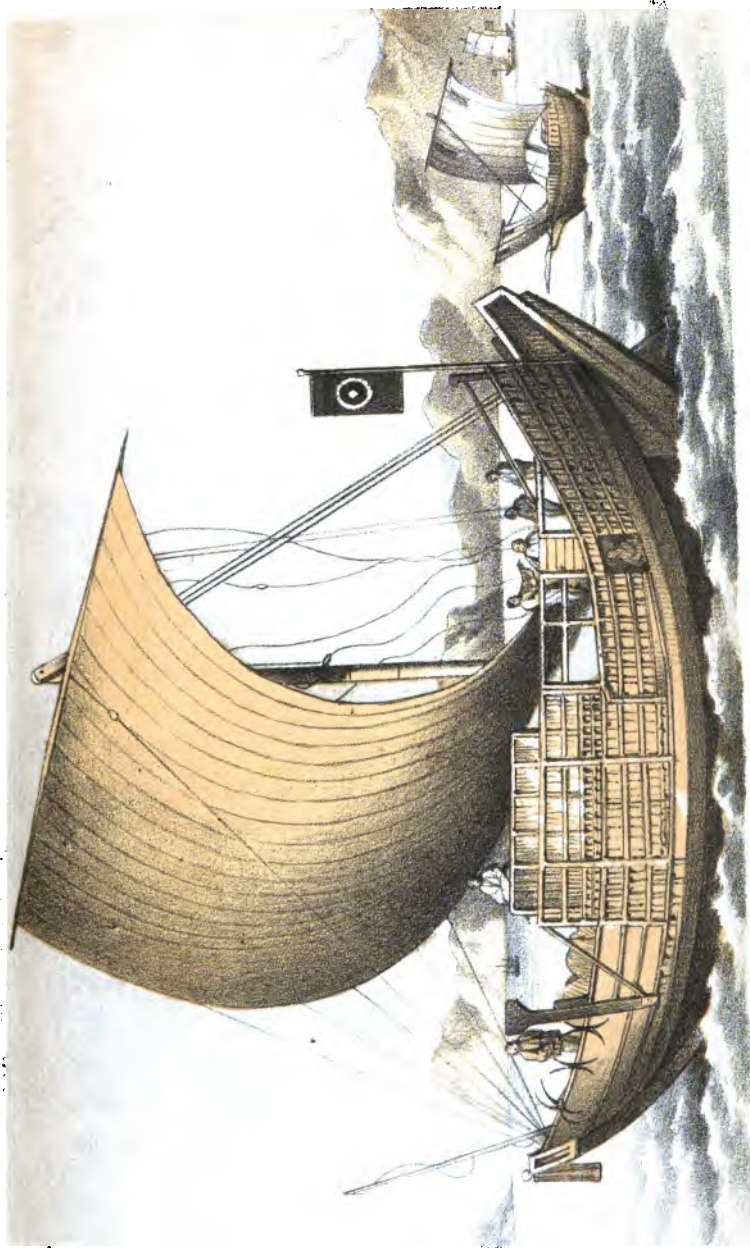
“You see they have counted you already,” said one of our hosts, as he welcomed us to the immense mansion; “and when you go away the same thing will be repeated. From the moment you enter their ports, they station boats to watch your ships. When you leave your ships, you are counted and watched. When you land, you are followed; and when you return on board you are again counted, to see that there are none left on shore. They are always counting.”

Our friend here became indignantly warm upon the subject; but the necessity of enter-

taining us diverted his attention. "We used," he for a moment resumed, "to amuse ourselves by passing continually in and out through the gates, which caused these sentries to keep up a perfect stream of reports. They seemed puzzled to find out how it was, or why we did it, at first; but by and bye they smelt a rat, and contented themselves with reporting about every ten minutes only. The children used to baffle them the most; they counted them also, for in their childish sports they would often get beyond the grounds of the temple and mix with the Japanese children of their own age, much to the annoyance of the officers, who were bound to report every such freak of theirs."

After this illustration of the surveillance exercised over foreigners by the Japanese, we were led into a large and spacious room, one of whose windows looked out upon several fresh-looking monuments that lifted themselves from a slight elevation on our left, while the others opened out into the grand hall of the temple.

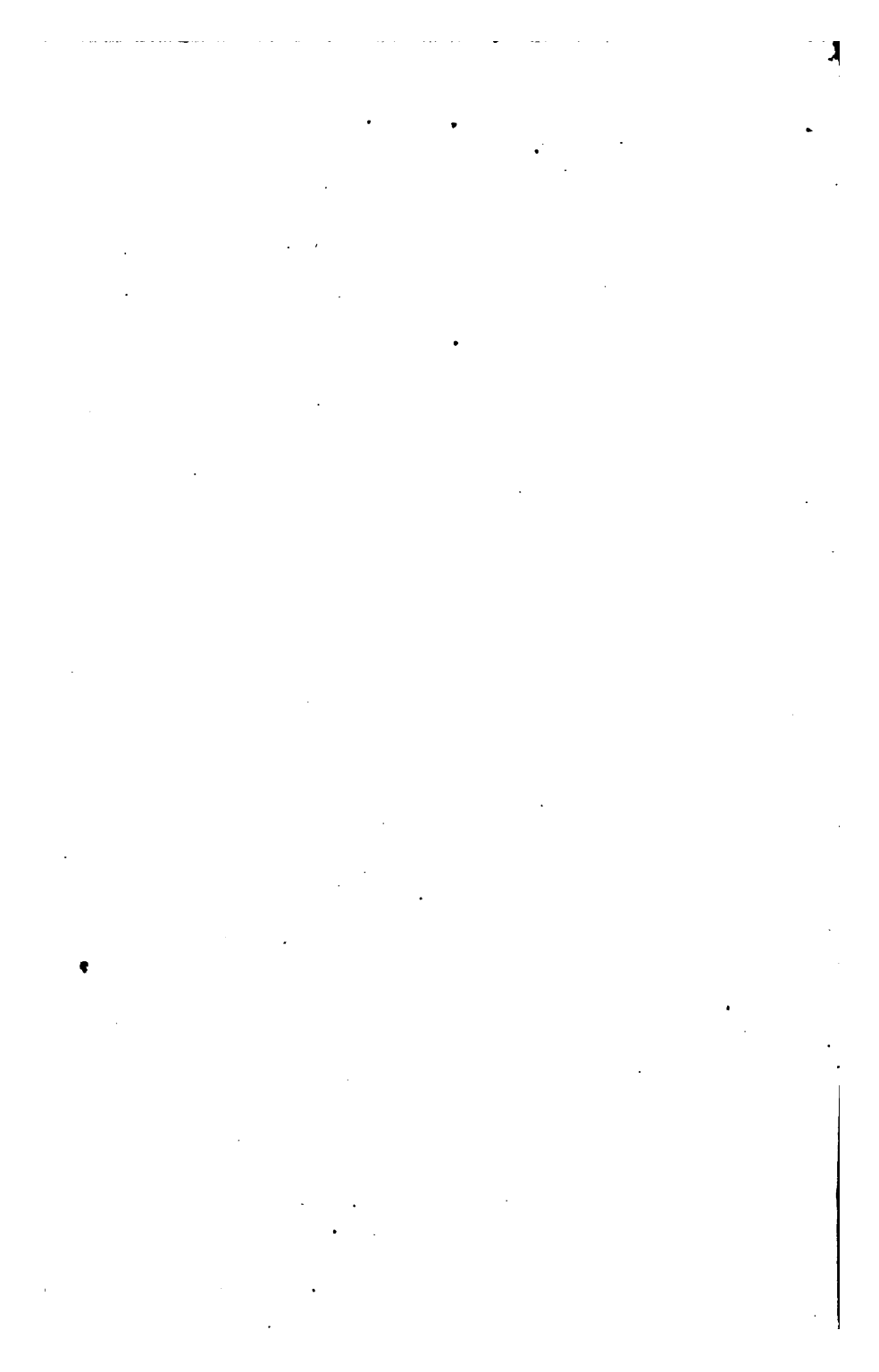
"Well, this looks strange," said one of our party, as he gazed through the window first alluded to upon the European-featured monu-



STANNARD & DIXON, LITH.

A SCENE OFF SIMODA.

KINGHAY CORNWALLIS, DELT





ments. "Observe these granite monuments with their emblems chiselled, and the fellow's history cut in exactly, where with us would be put 'Sacred to the Memory of Richard Turpin, Esquire,'—positively christian-looking. I thought the Japanese burned their dead, and stowed the ashes away in jars."

"So they do, as a general rule," remarked the Russian, speaking in French. "These, however, are not all Japanese monuments. Four of Commodore Perry's men and one of his officers are buried under them. The monuments themselves were made by Japanese, from designs by the Americans."

Leaving my companions at the temple to be entertained by the Russian and the Sandwich Islanders, I excused myself, and passing through the gate, when I was of course counted, I strolled up the street as far as the first corner, which commanded a full-length view of the widest street in Simoda, and along which I continued my walk. The street terminated, but the way was continued through an avenue of stately cedar and larch trees, the vista of which was closed by an imposing edifice, which I rightly judged to be a

house of religious worship. It was the Sintoo temple.

Crossing a wooden bridge constructed over an artificial gold fish-pond, and then another of smaller dimensions, but of beautifully carved green stone, I arrived at the portals of the sanctuary, on either side of which stood two statues of armed men in stone, much overgrown with moss and lichens. Continuing my way along an inner avenue, I passed a number of elegant stone candelabras ranged on either side of the ample path. To the right appeared a square belfry of open wood-work, resting upon a high foundation of greenstone. Within this hung a bell of large proportions, and beside it there swung a heavy block of beechwood, used for striking the tones. To the left a low shed sheltered several marble images, the presence of bouquets and copper cash in front of which indicated the recent presence of worshippers. Proceeding a little further onward, I passed under a pavilion built over the pathway, and about which various rudely executed pictures, chiefly representing ships and shipwrecks, as also a variety of images and offerings, were promiscuously dis-

posed. Having emerged from this, I found myself at the foot of a flight of stone steps reaching about six feet from the ground to the entrance of the temple proper. I ascended, and stood within view of a magnificent hall.

On each side of the porch, a lion *couchant*, rudely sculptured out of stone, arrested my attention. The porch itself was sustained by posts covered over with carvings, chiefly of the heads of lions and elephants. These people, thought I, are evidently not strangers to the natural history of the world beyond their empire, for certain it is that neither lion nor elephant ever sniffed the air of Japan.

The temple was of wooden construction, chiefly of cedar, and neatly and compactly thatched with bamboo and other materials, terminating in spreading eaves.

The interior, unlike, as I afterwards discovered, the Buddhist sanctuaries, was not supplied with sliding panels, but contained two apartments, the main hall and the inner shrine partitioned off by a latticed screen of bamboo. Both were profusely decked with pictures, images, and

written characters on slabs of stone fastened against the walls.

There was no worship going forward at this time, and I saw no priests. Two or three individuals, however, made their appearance in the hall as I passed along it; but they looked half startled at my presence in the holy place, and shrank from any approach.

Leaving the temple by the same path as that by which I had entered, I observed a pair of officials walking on before me; they were evidently bent on watching my movements. Turning a corner to the right, after passing the portals where stood the warriors, I obtained a view of the burial ground, beyond which lay a garden in a high state of cultivation. Such a garden I found similarly attached to all the other temples, their use and intention being to supply the priests, who, without exception, reside within their respective sanctuaries, with vegetables.

Happy men, thought I. It reminded me of the resident gravedigger of a certain Lancashire parish burial-ground, who used to cultivate large crops of parsley, onions, and potatoes, over the

very graves, and who made periodical weedings of human bones. Subsequently, the place having been closed on account of the vast number of interments that had taken place in it during a long course of years, this fellow put the whole cemetery under cultivation ; kicking the skulls and thigh bones about as he rooted out his potatoes preparatory to carting them to market ; and driving in addition, a *smart* trade in radishes, mustard and cress, and greens ; and a flourishing plantation his looked. The old desecrator deserved to be drowned in treacle.

Pursuing my way beyond the great temple, I had the whole nine simultaneously presented to my view, and backed by a range of hills over whose slopes and summits for miles shrines and temples were here and there denoted by the groves of yew and cypress by which they were each surrounded. I took my way to the nearest of these, and approached it by a flight of stone steps. In the rotunda-like interior numerous images were displayed, as also inscriptions on stone, which I supposed to be dedications to tutelary deities of the spot. I observed two bouquets of flowers in front of one of the latter,

evidently offerings from some devotees ; but the place itself was deserted.

Descending to the temples, I commenced a rapid survey, the two officers following and watching me with anxious curiosity, but putting no obstruction in the way of my erratic peregrinations. Each of these edifices I found to be of wooden construction, but, unlike the Sintoo temple, roofed with a mixture of white, red, and black tiles. The wooden posts sustaining the superstructure were, alike with the entire woodwork, covered with lacquered work. The floors were raised three or four feet from the ground, and beautifully matted with the compact neatness common to everything Japanese. In front of the portals there was a verandah, where the worshippers left their sandals on entering the sanctuary.

At the doors of the grand apartments a drum was suspended on the left, and a bell on the right, intended to be sounded, as I subsequently learned, at the commencement of each service. Between these doors and the central shrine were ranged several low reading-desks, attached to each of which lay a solid wooden representation of a

fish, which was used for the purpose of beating time during the chanting, in which latter form their devotions are chiefly conducted. Numerous idols in gold, silver, and white marble, as also pictures of the same, were ranged round the walls of each edifice. There was a special shrine in which ancestral tablets were arranged in niches. The solemn silence pervading these places was impressive; their gloom, too, was so profound as to be almost painful. Each temple was backed by a grave-yard, and differed somewhat from that belonging to the temple occupied by the Russians as to the number and kind of tombstones displayed. The latter were usually of green stone, and either simple slabs, raised tombs, or obelisks, but numbers of the same kind of images as covered the burial-ground first sketched were also to be seen.

It is the Japanese custom to burn the bodies of their nobles, and incense the ashes, while the bodies of the inferior members of their community are interred entire. Statues of Buddha were plentifully distributed over the grounds, in which he was exhibited in as many different

postures as sizes ; while occasionally he was to be met with carved in relief upon slabs of stone, in the act of emerging from a shell, or in some such other symbolical character. Calabashes of beautiful and recently plucked flowers, in water, stood in front of the resting-places of many, while here and there an opium-bearing poppy added to the effect in relieving the gloom and brightening the aspect of the crumbling vestiges around, which looked the very personification of decay.

Most of the inscriptions on the stones were illegible, and covered with moss and lichen, the natural result of the humidity of the climate. These inscriptions, like our own, recorded the name, rank, and date of demise, as also the good works and learning of the deceased.

I now hurried back to my companions of the ship, and felt glad in having thus availed myself of the opportunity of visiting this ecclesiastical district of the mysterious empire. Followed in the distance by the official spies, who appeared to have kept any one else from doing likewise, I again reached the temple of the Russians, after an absence of only one hour and twenty minutes.



A repast was being served as I entered, consisting chiefly of fish and poultry, served on native earthen dishes, superior both in material and finished workmanship to anything in the way of china-ware that I had before seen. I noticed that in the centre of each dish there was imprinted the representation of a volcanic mountain, as also on several other things, such as looking-glasses, fans, and pictures; it was the same volcano everywhere; so I inquired whether this was intended to portray any one particular mountain, or whether it was merely a mania or veneration that the Japanese had for mountains,—at least, burning ones.

“Oh, Fusi-yama,” said one of the Sandwich Island adventurers, “it’s the second god of the people here. Every man has its likeness wove into his shirt, and everything he owns is set off with a picture of Fusi-yama.”

“And where is this beautiful mountain?” I asked.

“Oh, up the coast; yonder high, smoky looking peak; you’ll see it if you go to Ha-da, or even if you’re within fifty miles from it at sea. We saw it, sir, tapering to a perfect cone, twelve thousand feet above us, and

a beautiful sight it was. You mustn't say anything against Fusi-yama when you see it smoking at the bottom of your tea-cup while you're in Japan. By Jove! they worship it here!"

After we had discussed to our satisfaction the birds and fishes, the rice and the soya, the latter the finest fish sauce in the world, we wound up by eating fruit and drinking saki, a strong and intoxicating but not unpleasant liquor distilled from rice and grain; and without allowing much time for repose, the day being near its close, we took our leave, and, escorted by quite a troop of officials, took our way to the beach and rowed off to the ship.

Night soon enveloped the view, and the rain subsided, and the moon and the stars shone out in placid beauty, and mandarins' boats, lighted with many lanterns, hovered continually round and round the vessel, reflecting streams of coloured light upon the glassy deep. And so ended my first day in Japan.

We awoke on the next morning in the expectation of enjoying a fresh breakfast of Japanese eggs, chickens, fish, and such like: but we were doomed to disappointment—the officer

who had charge of the commissariat had not sent us the good things which he promised. We ate our usual sea breakfast ; and several uttered denunciations against him. Just then the Russian came on board. He laughed at our complaints, and said it was just what he expected, and indeed that we had better, for our own peace, make up our minds to rest content with a good supply of rice, soya, saki, and a stray chicken or fish now and then, so long as we remained at our present anchorage. He gave us the information that the Japanese were very moderate livers, and that they were averse to being accessories after the fact in the cause of gluttony. Here somebody expressed a wish anything but flattering to the subjects and government of the two emperors.

After breakfast, several of us went on shore again in one of the ship's boats. On gaining the beach, I observed a little fellow tracing something in the sand with a sharp-pointed stick. I went up to him and recognised the child I had shaken by the hand on the previous day, and whom I had endeavoured to teach the art of numbers after the English style, seeing

that counting appeared to be about the most prominent feature in the government of his country. I had tried to make him repeat after me one, two, three, and so on up to ten, and before leaving him had written in pencil on a slip of paper the several figures. And here he was, slip in hand, now deeply engrossed in transferring them to the sand. One, two, three, and the first stroke of the next figure were already represented on the Japanese beach, and he was evidently resolved to persevere till he accomplished the ten; moreover, the figures were quickly and accurately formed. I made a sign for him to continue scribbling; in five minutes more he had the ten figures traced out in a straight line, and all as true to my own writing, excepting a little exaggeration in point of size, as was possible. I looked at his graceful frame and bright sparkling eyes, and began to conceive a high idea of Japanese brains.

To his lively joy I gave him a lead pencil and another slip of paper, when he at once commenced writing the Japanese character opposite each figure, and the whole being translated in that way, he smoothed off a place on the beach,

and went to work with his sharp stick and a will that would have put to shame the British truants of my own schoolboy days. After this, we strolled a short distance along the beach which was coated with white sand and small, variously shaped shells, and overhung by wooded cliffs, picturesquely irregular in size and form.

Diverging a little way into the interior, we saw a small herd of very fine cattle, ranging the neighbouring hills. We thought this a good opportunity of negotiating for the purchase of fresh meat, and with this view we turned back and confronted the two sworded officials who were following in our steps, and by the use of coins and pantomime intimated to them our wish to purchase some of them. To this they replied, that the cattle were used as beasts of burden; but that if we wanted a *horse*, we could have one. We had a hearty laugh at this, but the Japanese preserved the most perfect gravity.

There were five or six horses among the horns, so we approached, not with the intention of judging as to whether they would prove good eating, but as to the sort of riding they had to

offer. We found them sleek, well-formed animals, about fourteen hands high, but in the absence of saddle and bridle we were unable to try their pace. One rash fellow, however, of our party, the sailing master who had been so fervently embraced by the Russian, volunteered the exploit of riding a bare-backed steed. To this end he took firm hold of the mane of one of the horses, who forthwith commenced a most piteous neighing, and began to curvet, which necessitated a corresponding dance-movement on the part of the would-be rider, who still retained his hold, and endeavoured, to the best of his ability, to keep his boots out of the way of the quadruped's forefeet. The next act in the play was the horse making a sudden bolt across the plain ; but finding himself still hugged by the live Yankee, he as suddenly halted again, turned round, and looked his tormentor hard in the face, at the same time availing himself of the opportunity of stamping on the foot of the marine gentleman, which gave rise to a boisterous ejaculation on his part, and determined him in his declaration that *he would never be beaten.*

By this time there was abundant laughter on our side. The sailor was known to be the worst of riders as well as the most rash of horsemen, and all looked on with delight at the strange caprices of the *craft he had taken in tow*, and were not ill-pleased to find that he had "caught a Tartar," when he seized the mane of the bare-backed steed.

The Japanese were looking on with horrified composure. At one spring the Yankee was on the horse's back, and as quickly off on the other side again, but he still retained his grip. This was the signal for a loud hurraing. Off ran the horse—we followed, picking up the cap of the would-be rider on the way. The steed again halted. Up once more went the Yankee, and was as quickly jerked over the head of the unwilling animal, who took the opportunity of pulling off his shirt collar with his teeth before he had time to get up again. He was up again in a brace of seconds—away galloped the horse, the rider clinging with the utmost energy and desperation to his back, on which he occupied an almost horizontal position—away to the hills and amongst the herd bounded the affrighted

steed, with the rest of the horses galloping after him. Suddenly down came the rider ; this was the signal for another peal of laughter. We expected to see him scamper back to us at a full pace ; but no ; we could see nothing of him—we had to go and fetch him.

Just as we arrived at the spot of his overthrow, he emerged upon the view, looking, as one of the party remarked, like a drowned cat, and certainly in a most pitiable plight. He had just crawled out of a horse pond, into which *the beast* had thrown him in the most ingenious and relentless manner. We advised him to keep his pecker up, and sun himself—to take a pull at the brandy flask, and never attempt to ride a Japanese horse again without accoutrements ; all of which things he signified his approval of, first, in taking off his coat and spreading it out on the grass to dry, then in quaffing with considerable gusto the dose prescribed, and expressing his intention, in not the most elegant phraseology, never to have anything further to do with the horses of the double Empire on any terms. I may mention that they are solely ridden by the very wealthy and high officers of



state, the cavalry portion of the army excepted, and but seldom by the former; the animals are smaller than ours of England, but of almost human intelligence, as was illustrated in the one who threw our friend into the drinking pond.

In number they are few, and but seldom used as beasts of burden, bullocks being selected for heavy labour, such being their primary use, and not their conversion into beef, the Japanese eating animal food but rarely.

On our way back, passing along the street, running parallel with the beach, and formed of two rows of picturesque two-storied wooden houses plastered over with a stone-like cement, the lintel or door-post of each being surmounted by a Buddha's head or some such device intended as a charm, I saw a young girl standing fan in hand at an open door reading. She was simply clad in a loose crape half-petticoat, half-dressing-gown, sort of dress, reaching as far down as the ankles, and bound by a sash of yellow silk round the waist. Her feet, which were small and beautifully formed, rested on the common high straw sandals of the country. Over this dress, which left the bosom partly uncovered,

she wore a light cream-coloured, open jacket, of a muslin texture, with wide sleeves extending a little below the elbow ; her soft black hair was beautifully drawn back from off the forehead, and bound in a peculiar cluster at the back of the head, where it was held by two gold pins, one of great length, and with a scorpion-like device attached to it, and which moved to and fro with every motion of its fair wearer. Her complexion was bright and pale, much more so than the Chinese ; her features animated and expressive, and her teeth white and as finely formed as her entire figure.

By the latter I saw that she was a virgin, the invariable Japanese custom being, that on the marriage of every female, the teeth are dyed black, and in some cases the eyebrows shaven off. I halted nearly in front of where she stood ; she did not look *piqued*, and turn away, as the fair damsels of my own country would have likely done ; but she favoured me with a steady gaze, and smiled, though I could scarce detect the movement of a feature, while her eyes, like souls of eloquence, glowed in fascinating beauty. She was reading a book ; I saluted her with a low bow ; she re-

turned the compliment by a somewhat similar movement.

Observing my curiosity to see the book which she held, she handed it to me. It was thin, and of nearly the quarto size; the letter-press was intermixed with numerous wood-cuts—a common circumstance in Japan, as I subsequently ascertained, where nearly every book published abounds with numerous illustrations. In weight the book was exceedingly light, and the cover was of a very thick coloured paper, highly ornamented, the external picture being that of a crucifixion; the paper was printed on one side only, and left uncut, so that the printed sides were alone presented to the eye. The work, one of an ordinary kind, was of excellent typography. Of its literary merits the young lady might have formed an opinion—but, being anything but a Japanese, I could do no such pleasant thing.

The beginning of a Japanese book is at the other end of it; that is, the book commences, and the numbers advance, from the last page. Beginning at the right hand upper corner, and running from top to bottom, the lines succeed regularly. Most of their books are composed

of two very different kinds of characters, viz:—Chinese ideographic and Japanese syllabic mingled. The Chinese characters are generally contracted, so that they are not capable of being deciphered without the syllabic characters or letters placed near them. Where the Chinese characters are very familiar, the syllabic characters are omitted. This is frequently the case with those that represent the numbers, the months, man, big, little, to be, to do, to say, and so forth.

The Japanese letters, syllabic characters, are forty-eight in number, written in various ways. The plainest kind of letters, called Katakana, appeared only to be used in learned books, translations, and commentaries. The commonest kind of letters are called Airakama. These are used in all the common literature, works of natural science, histories, and such like. I saw a small Japanese book—the seven alphabets—in which there were seven additional kinds of letters, which appear to be used much as old English and German text are with us, to ornament title-pages, and to display the learning and skill of the scribes.

In its structure the language is analogous to those of the Tartar or Scythic class; and although in the lexicographic portion it differs from all others of that class, this can hardly be a foundation for making a general distinction, because even those differ very considerably from each other in this respect.

Leaving this young lady, after a short display of pantomime, to the consolations of her book on natural history, for such I judged it to be, we continued on our way to the end of the street, when the circumstance of its beginning to rain induced us to turn to the left and to our boat, instead of to the right and into the town; so that our adventures of to-day were scarcely worth recording, the sailing-master's excepted, who still bore evidence of his recent ducking. I shall not weary the reader with a detail of our life on board, as it would be in no way different from life on board ship in any other harbour. Such description, even when the vessel is at sea, almost invariably proves itself monotonous, and must necessarily, under ordinary circumstances, prove much more painfully so when lying at anchor.

The sloop, as on the previous night, formed the centre within the circle of lantern lights from the numerous Japanese boats which kept continually moving round her dark hull, but holding no communication with us.

Several of them remained on the watch all night, and their numbers were augmented on the following dawn by fresh boats. I was out of my berth at sun-rise, enjoying a view of the breaking day, and its effect upon a Japanese landscape. Far away to the south-east loomed the lofty volcanic chain of Nipon, its irregular summits capped with a white mist, and its prodigious sides covered with forest and verdure, almost indistinct in the rising light of morning, except at the eastern curve, where the first rays of the inspiring sun were rolling floods of silver over the more prominent landmarks of the country. The undulations of shade presented a more striking contrast, owing to this — the vivid sunlight which fringed the hills, — than would have been the case under the influence of a light dispensed from a greater altitude. Swiftly the mists were vanishing away as dreams before reality, and the waters of

the bay became suffused with the rainbow hues of the dawn just flashing athwart their surface with a golden effulgence.

Hastily dressing for a long, pre-arranged walk on shore, the sailing-master, one of the Sandwich Islanders, who had slept on board at the invitation of nobody, and myself, set out in a dingy for the shore. The air was clear and cool, but promised much heat before the close of the day. We pulled for the upper landing upon the edge of Simoda, contemplating our heavy expedition boots and large walking-sticks by the way; relying upon our concealed revolvers for defence, and mayhap a little sport, and upon our watches to excite curiosity in the country people.

However, we were *green* as yet at Japanese travelling, and consequently had no idea as to where we were going to, or what we were going to see.

Nevertheless, we made ourselves happy in the knowledge of having a good half day's supply of provisions with us, and all the resources of Japan before us. But the touch-not take-not terms of the treaty very much curbed the enjoy-

ment of my companions, who rather admired—

“ The good old rule, the simple plan,  
That those may take who have the power,  
And those may keep, who can.”

It is some consolation, however, to see and know of the existence of good things, much more so to hope that we may get them, although, for the present, they are as far removed from our possession as if they had never existed, *i. e.*, the rich man's gold.

“ I guess,” said the sailing-master, who was a good specimen of the slivery Yankee, “ we'd better start right straight back into the country—walk ahead till twelve o'clock—discuss lunch alongside a stream—throw the crumbs to the fish, and steer back again by a new road.”

“ Very delightful, if not fatiguing,” said I.

“ Let's liquor,” he resumed. “ Will you liquor, Mister—?” And he pulled out a flask of brandy fixed in a small tumbler.

“ This is commencing early,” thought I, accepting, as a matter of politeness, the proffered glass.

The boat, under the guidance of two small boys in blue, here ranged up to the rocky and



picturesque landing ; and we stepped ashore under the heavy foliage of cedar trees, and wended our interesting way between the sturdy live oak-like trunks, and beneath the sheltering arms of their spreading branches. The path was shady, and there was a growth of underbush, extending to the table land above.

The first object of note that we came to was a spy-house of bamboo, which had been erected since our arrival, for the purpose of enabling the Japanese officials who occupied it to note everyone that left the ship, and cause him to be followed or watched by one or more of their number.

We had not passed this place of espionage more than hundred yards, when a couple of two-sworded officials emerged from its precincts and followed us, very soon coming within speaking distance. We stopped to allow of them to come up, but they also halted. These fellows were very unpopular with the sailing-master, who had an insuperable objection to being watched ; the consequence was, that we turned back and closely confronted the two, to whom we made unmistakeable signs that they were

not wanted, and that they would oblige by going home again, in token of which he of the horsepond took hold of one of them by the shoulders, turned his face towards the bamboo edifice, and gave him a slight push in that direction.

This mode of proceeding was not, however, relished by the heroes of the two swords, who refused to return ; upon which the Yankee, an outrageous brute, I must admit, retook his man by the shoulders, gave him another turn in the direction of the bamboo, and performed with his heavy expedition boot a violent ceremony, which is usually considered anything but flattering or agreeable throughout the rest of the world, but in Japan was an insult that I might safely aver had never been committed before, and which could alone be avenged by death. Without, therefore, making the slightest attempt at retaliation on the body of his adversary, he unsheathed his chief sword, which, beautifully burnished, flashed for an instant in the sunlight ; the Yankee meanwhile extricated his revolver from its hiding-place ; it was needless, for at two easy strokes—two gentle slashes of that

keen-edged weapon performed in an instant one across the other like the letter X—he had disembowelled himself, and fell a swiftly dying man. As he reached the ground, he cast up his eyes at his adversary, and seeing him standing near, apparently with no intention of following his example, he expressed the most fearful agony I had ever beheld.

We were all filled with dismay at this strange event, while the brother official surveyed us threateningly with looks of the most intense horror.

“He expects you to kill yourself in like manner, and with the same sword,” said the Sandwich Islander.

The Yankee muttered out something to the effect that *he was no such fool*.

Meanwhile the distortions of the dying man were painful to look upon; the other officer motioned us away, and went down on his knees beside the wounded body, and before he rose, a few seconds afterwards, the man was dead. We were much alarmed at this tragical episode in our morning's proceedings, and visions of some-

thing worse than being indicted for manslaughter were conjured up by us with great rapidity.

I was at a great loss for the time being to correctly understand why it was that the Japanese had inflicted death upon himself, and came to the conclusion that the absence of swords with those gentlemen would be more advantageous than their presence, if that was the common mode of using them. I considered, that if a man could not be a friend to himself, where lay the pleasure of existence, and who beside could he trust to? For myself, a *true* friend is a *rara avis* that I have never yet met with. Subsequently I ascertained that the Japanese preferred death before dishonour, and that it was a customary thing amongst the higher classes or sword-wearers, throughout the empire, when one man injured or insulted another, for the aggrieved party to use his sword, after the manner adopted by this gentleman, and which, according to the law of Japanese honour and the rules of Japanese society, entailed upon the offending party the necessity of doing likewise. This suicidal ceremony is termed *the Harikari*. Thus, on one occasion, two guests were attending a ball ;

while ascending the stairs, the one, an irascible old man, was jostled by another : there was no pacifying him ; blood could alone atone for the slight he had suffered, so drawing his sword and making the figure of X across his abdomen, he sank bleeding on the stairs. The other, a young man, taking up the sword, served himself similarly ; to have not done so would have been to have disgraced himself : and so the irascible old man had the morbid pleasure of seeing the other dying by his side, on the stairs, ere the last spark of his own life had expired.

Again, a certain married lady of Hakodadi, during the absence of her husband in the inland provinces, had her chastity violated, a rare thing with the Japanese ; on the return of her husband she presented an altered manner towards him, and, in reply to his enquiries, she urged him to allow her to remain away from him for a short period, at the end of which time she would declare the cause. On the third day a feast and entertainment was given at their house, at which was present the seducer. When the repast was over, she rose, and addressed the assembled throng, mentioning the circumstance

which had occurred to her, and saying that she was unworthy of her husband or yet to live, and at the instant, before any one could arrest her hand, she drew forth her dagger from its sheath of ornamented gold,—it is customary for the wives of men of rank to wear a small dagger in their sashes—plunged it into her heart, and fell dead. All were filled with dismay, in the midst of which the guilty cause, whose name, however, had not been mentioned by her, and who was consequently unknown as such, left the room, and on gaining the passage below, unsheathed his sword, and inflicted upon himself the fatal cross.

Now here the man's sense of honour was so strong, that, although society would have remained ignorant of his association with the complaint of the woman, he nevertheless could not forego the sacrifice of life for life. Of course, by this suicidal act he made known his crime and complicity, but he at the same time earned the forgiveness and admiration of all.

However, to ourselves, the Yankee was unfamiliar with this Japanese code of honour, and moreover it is very unlikely that even had he

been, he would have so readily yielded up the ghost. Again, I do not think that the official could have expected that the wearer of the expedition boots knew anything about the custom of the country, much less that he would follow it, and I arrived at the conclusion that the Japanese committed suicide under the influence of extreme insult, pain, annoyance, and disgust, and considered death, as I before said, preferable to such dishonour, caring not whether the insulter shared his fate or otherwise. He was too spiritually peaceful—too magnanimous—too forgiving—too merciful to fight. He followed the injunction given unto us by Him who said, “*When a man smiteth thee on the one cheek, turn thou unto him the other.*” And again, “*When another taketh away thy coat, give him thy cloak also.*”

Leaving the two officers, including the corpse, we continued on our way, as if nothing calamitous had happened. The thought struck me, that *the consequences of a kick* might prove as serious to us even yet, as they had to the deceased gentleman, and that moreover the title and subject would both be rather *taking* on the boards

of the Surrey Theatre ; and at the same time I took the opportunity of expressing my indignant opinion to the heavy-booted sailing master, on the unjustifiable outrage he had committed, which was as disgraceful to himself, as a visitor on those shores, as it was calculated to bring reproach and injury upon the country that claimed him as her subject. Certainly he did not murder the man, but by an act of violence he so affected the sensibility of the individual, that the result was exactly the same.

The Japanese are the most sensitive as well as the most ceremonious, formal, and polite people on the face of the earth ; necessarily so to one another, as any breach of customary respect would be fatal to the existence of both parties in the manner described.

Turning away from the scene of the tragedy recorded, we advanced a few hundred yards over uneven ground, and then found ourselves at the edge of a beautiful valley. We looked back as we descended, and saw the surviving officer taking his way in the direction of the house of *espionage*, no doubt to apprise the authorities of the insult and calamity which it



had been the lot of his brother official to experience.

Wildly beautiful was the valley we were treading ; wildly picturesque in its irregular formation, in its short and angular turnings, in the clear and limpid stream which flowed through its highly cultivated centre, and followed its every turning, here and there approaching the jutting feet of the mountains on either side ; wildly beautiful in its dense and magnificent foliage ; its grove after grove of the wax-like japonica ; in the startled flight of gaudy plumaged birds, whose brilliant wings flashed in the sunlight ; in the sudden dash of the mountain trout, and in the shady cottages of the mysterious people who enjoyed a civilization of their own.

Occasionally we would leave the highway skirting the river's bank, and following a winding footpath, here and there shaded by overhanging woods, come suddenly upon some rural habitation and its startled occupants. Then would ensue a scene of noise and confusion—dogs barking and slinking off behind corners, children screaming and clinging to their mothers for protection, while the mothers themselves

were filled with equal dismay, wringing their hands and crying almost piteously, and with fear, as, like flurried geese, they fled before us in disorder:—fled as from some element of destruction and the presence of the destroyer. The men alone stood their ground; but many of even these avoided us, or approached with distrustful glances. We usually opened these interviews by exclaiming—"Good morning," (much they knew what that meant), and by shaking their hands with friendly energy, accompanied with here and there an ejaculation, and no ordinary display of pantomime, after which we offered each of them a cigar.

The latter they would light with great difficulty, meanwhile watching our movements very closely; they would soon tire of smoking our Havannahs, and in evident disrelish of their flavour would place them carefully in their sleeve pockets, or stick them into their girdles. They would then light their own small pipes, and tender them to us. I tried a puff at each, and found the tobacco of the most fragrant description, infinitely preferable in my estimation to that of America.

However, I am not a consumer of the weed, and consequently am less a nuisance to my fellow-men than are the majority of *mankind* in this age of the world. Our friend of the Sandwich Islands was able to get on pretty well with them, to all appearance, in the way of conversation; but he informed me that whenever he spoke Japanese, or rather, it should have been said, attempted to do so, he neither knew what he himself was talking about, nor yet what the Japanese was talking about, so that his knowledge of the language was not very profound. But, after all, he was no worse off than many of ourselves, who even in our own language are very often just as ignorant of the subjects we venture to discuss. I could occupy sixteen quartos with instances and illustrations of this one fact; I shall refrain from the task, however; as there is nothing new in the announcement,—we know these things already,—we have the fact illustrated by every second speaker we hear, wherever we are, yet erudition and profundity, without an attractive style, are at a discount, and the most empty magpie often rules the roast. After the pipe-lighting they usually became more familiar and confiding in

their manner, examining the texture of our coats, scrutinizing our boots and every article of our dress with a zealous curiosity.

We would then gratify them by the production of our watches, revolvers, vesta-matches, and money, after which, one by one, the women, the children, and the dogs returned, and gathered round, all apparently equally eager to see whatever belonged to us. How powerful is this passion of curiosity! It proved our most potent lever in working ourselves into the favour of these singular but amiable and peaceful people. The motion of the watch seemed to afford them more satisfaction and pleasure than anything else we had to exhibit. By pointing to the sun and the hour hand, alternately making various signs, and using a few disconnected words of their language chiefly at the mouth of the Sandwich Islander, we succeeded in giving them an accurate idea of its value and use; this was proved at one of our halting places by a man fetching a native clock out of his house to compare with it. The smallness and finished neatness of the watch was what most attracted their admiration.

Our revolvers also seemed to afford them some

amusement ; six barrels in one seemed to convince them of our superiority in arms. When we prepared to leave, they would press round us to shake hands, and in several cases accompanied us a short distance on our way. They seemed to pass at once from a state of distrust to one of perfect confidence, and would laugh heartily at other villagers, who, on seeing us suddenly round a corner, would drop their baskets or bundles, and take to flight, until reassured by a well-known voice or familiar face. The conviction was forced upon the wearer of the eventful boot that the government officials had warned the people to avoid us, as they always received us distrustfully, yet parted in the utmost good humour. We expected that the news of the catastrophe of the early morning would soon overtake us, and that possibly a detachment of Japanese troops might be sent to arrest us ; but, notwithstanding the possibility or likelihood of such an occurrence, we took matters very calmly, and continuing our stroll along this romantic valley, we reached at a little past noon a wayside tavern or tea-house, overlooking a beautiful cascade, and half hidden by rich and clustering

foliage, where we halted. We wiped our heated brows, pulled off our unnecessarily heavy boots and extended ourselves upon the clean cushion-like mats, with which the floors of all Japanese houses are invariably spread.

The landlord, who received us without the slightest hesitation of manner, in fact, with true self-possessed Japanese politeness, was a fine-looking old man, with a tall upright frame, an expansive forehead, a soft blue eye, pale complexion, and a general cast of feature expressive of a high order of intelligence, and that partook as much of the Caucasian as of the Mongolian aspect, but which belonged to neither. He drew us off several cups of saki from one of his numerous casks, and then introduced his wife and two daughters. They were of compact and graceful form, and their slightly oblique eyes were blue and dreamy, and their placid countenances were distinguished by a complexion so pale, and cheeks of so delicate a pink, that they could hardly be called tawny. They approached us without the usual signs of distrust, smiling good-humouredly and giving utterance to a connected series of words, which, judging from the

morning compliments usual with the ladies of our own realm, must have had some bearing upon the state of the weather, in general, and our own health, and the heat of our walk in particular, but beyond which surmise we were left in profound ignorance. We took it for granted that it was something complimentary, and received the sealed packet with earnest thanks and many unuttered acknowledgments. *It was all Greek to us* ; but, as the poet Goldsmith says—

“ Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.”

This quotation has become *familiar as a household word*, it is one of the standard, standing, ubiquitous quotations of the age ; what one man quotes another is likely to quote, on the principle that example is contagious. Of the latter we may say that it exercises the most potent influence, and constitutes the strongest, as well as most active incentive in the guidance of our social machinery. Observe, for instance, the foremost sheep of a moving flock, making a jump over a straw, and mark the force of that example ; what a laughable sight it is to see all the others, or nearly so, jumping over the straw

also. So it is with the world, reader ; in many cases we follow example just as blindly as these same sheep, and few there are who have the independence, the magnanimity, and the boldness to judge and to question for themselves, or diverge from the beaten and conventional path prescribed by the common herd of mankind. I am discursive, but I trust pardonably so.

While we remained resting in the manner described, and indulged ourselves with frequent libations of saki, our friend the host engaged himself in spitting—understand me correctly, ye tinmen and ironmongers—several fine specimens of mountain trout, and sticking them upright in front of the fire, where they were soon, so far as we could hear, lost in all the agonies of convulsions.

The old landlord intimated by signs that they would agree well with the saki, a fact which we very soon were in a position satisfactorily to corroborate. We then in turn produced the luncheon we had brought with us, of which they each partook sparingly one after the other in succession, tasting each different article—cold ham, sardines, loaf bread, claret and so on, and



seemingly pleased with everything but the claret, over which they made the wryest of faces, comparing it with vinegar, an article with them of great consumption. An hour was passed in this way very agreeably, at the end of which time the Yankees *hauled* on their boots, which had previously been passing from hand to hand as objects of curiosity, as indeed they would have been anywhere; and after a kind farewell had been exchanged by each and by all, at least we had no reason to think otherwise, we took our departure free of all pecuniary charge, left the river at right angles, and struck over the mountain ridge in the direction of the sea, which we supposed to be distant some two or three miles.

We had a tough climb up the ravine paths, which kept us as pedestrians hard at work for more than an hour, but the scenery as we went was ever-varying and delightful—groves of trees, to us without a name, afforded genial shelter from the too vivifying, too glaring rays of the resplendent sun—rivulets murmured forth ingrateful music as we passed, and mingled their voices with the soft Æolian rustling of the trees.

Gaining the immediate summit of the range, we found ourselves looking down from a rocky pass, between two conical peaks, upon the distant sea.

We were surprized at its comparative remoteness, our position at a good guess being about four miles from the beach, and eight miles more along-shore from Simoda. We began to fear that we might be unable to reach the vessel that night. However, a little perseverance served us well; keeping steadily on our way, and having the good fortune not to get lost, and resisting the temptation to stop at the inviting villages through which we passed, and to talk, or rather play at gestures, with the fascinating ruby-lipped girls that crossed our path, we arrived at the Simoda landing place and our boat by sunset, taking our friend the Sandwich Islander on board to dine with us. We heard nothing, saw nothing, having reference to the affair of the two-sworded gentlemen of the morning, neither had the news of the occurrence been heard on board, and, but for the sailing master, who took pride in giving a narrative of the circumstance, I do not think that anything relating to it ever

would have been heard, as the Japanese having an antipathy against publishing the degradation of any one of their number, under whatever circumstances incurred, would ever wish to bury such an event in the profoundest secrecy.

## CHAPTER II.

ON the third day after our arrival, we went ashore to attend a bazaar, which had been built and stocked since our arrival, and specially for us. We made quite a brilliant display as we landed from our ten boats, and formed in marching order under the dense shade of the grand old trees—cedar, cypress, and laurel—that lined the landing place, while two drums and a fife took the head of the column and enlivened us with pleasant music. All were in uniform, swords and cocked hats being the order of the day; and to judge from the large numbers of the fair sex who came out to look at us, there

were weak heads in Japan, who, like two out of three of their sisters of other lands, were too apt to judge of birds by their feathers.

We approached the bazaar. It was a large square, one-storied building, some fifteen feet in height, and covering about an acre of ground. It was constructed of sawn, but rough, unplanned cedar boards, with a roof picturesquely thatched with bamboo and plaited bark, and sloping gracefully towards the court. It was possessed of only one entrance.

We entered at the solitary door: the first object near it, that met our attention, was an office, or spy house, occupied by half-a-dozen two-sworded officials, who were seated *à la Turque*, around a metallic brazier containing live mineral coal, which had the peculiarity of emitting neither smoke nor sulphur, and which burned with a bright red glow. Here they from time to time lit their diminutive pipes, and warmed their milkless, sugarless tea; pernicious ingredients, however, which others would do well to avoid. I say with the Chinaman, give me tea, but pure and without mixture; not your family slops, but a good bachelor's cup; economy in tea

is a proceeding I could never relish or endorse ; to drink it weak, is to use sugar and milk and imbibe languor ; to drink it strong is health and refreshment. It is an insult and libel, which deserves prompt resentment, to offer a man a cup of hot water, and to call it *tea*.

We, I have said, entered the bazaar, and, like so many children in a toyshop, with an unexpected supply of pocket money at command, we looked round upon the brilliant display, and confused ourselves by wondering which of the tempting things we saw was most to be admired ; we were greedy for everything, and would linger over all.

Two of the four shed-like sides of the building were divided off into stalls, one of which was furnished to each merchant to enable him to exhibit specimens of his wares to the best advantage, while the spaces immediately in front of the stalls were covered by boxes, containing the merchandise of which those on the shelves were only the samples. It was evidently expected that we would purchase largely, thinking, perhaps, that we were as much on a speculative voyage as anything else. Of the remaining

two sides, one was vacant, and the other was divided into one large, and two small apartments; the former of which was neatly covered with cushion-like matting, and appropriated to us as a lounging place, while the two latter were appropriated by the officers of the two swords who had charge of the affair.

As we passed from one stall to another, observing leisurely as we went, we remarked a great sameness in their general appearance. There was but one that differed materially from the others, and the difference there was owing to its being filled with china, instead of lacquer ware. But that china was the most beautiful that the art and ingenuity of man could devise, superior by far to the finest and most delicate French porcelain, and made and sold at the most trifling cost.

The other stalls presented each an almost equal variety of curiosities, choice and unique, but often intended more for ornament than use. Like the porcelain, the lacquer ware was of the finest and most elaborate excellence, each article a *chef-d'œuvre* in itself, and superior, of course, as a work of art, both in design, manufacture,

and finish to the china. One piece, I remember, the depth and richly tinted brilliancy of whose colouring attracted the attention and called forth the admiration of everyone present. It was a most happy and truthful imitation of an ordinary *red* fish, such as abound in the Gulf of Mexico, and are also common in the Japanese waters, about twenty inches in length. Upon my attempting to take it up by the side fin to examine it more closely, two thirds of its top side was lifted off, showing it to be a dish, capable of holding a large boiled or baked fish.

We were informed that such dishes formed part of every Japanese dinner service, and that the lacquer was so fine that hot water exercised no power upon it. This they said of nearly all their best lacquer ware, and the truth of the assertion was subsequently proved at the ship's mess table. We universally came to the conclusion that they were infinitely superior to all other nations both in the quality and manufacture of their porcelain, lacquer ware, and swords in particular, and as to many other things in general.

The drawings on some of the porcelain were



very different to the vivid colouring and style of the figures and patterns which characterised by far the greater portion, and more resembled the monochromatic designs upon the Etruscan vases than anything else that I had previously seen ; but these were represented to be copies of ancient Japanese art. Still the taste, as well as the imagination of the designer, was apparent both in the choice of subject and the elaborate detail which characterised these specimens of the old school, and which were in no way inartistic or less beautiful than the other works of the prevailing century.

The show of cut glass was small, but, alike with everything exhibited, very choice, coloured, and of ingenious device. We saw no blown glass. Among a number of the articles, all equally deserving of mention, were fancifully painted umbrellas and rain cloaks, both made entirely of the bamboo plant prepared with a vegetable oil of a particular kind.

Paper is made from the leaves of the latter useful tree, which is as strong and lasting as the best calico, and which, when well oiled, becomes perfectly waterproof. Expose yourself to an

hour's hard rain with one of those hooded cloaks on, or with one of those umbrellas over your head, and you come out of it as dry as when you went into it. Moreover, they will last through years of active service.

There was a great variety of engravings bearing a lithographic aspect; some were plain, but the majority were coloured—almost overcoloured—they were exposed for sale in piles on some of the shelves, and of which several of us purchased largely. The accuracy of the Japanese pen and brush was everywhere evident; but the style of art, I thought, partook rather of the Dutch school; likely the latter influence had been extended to them by the medium of the Dutch traders—the only privileged people communicating with Japan from the days of Marco Polo to the signing of Perry's treaty—who, of course, introduced, among other things, Dutch and Flemish works of art—pictorial and otherwise—the style of which the Japanese might have copied to some extent; if so, they copied a fault. The Japanese are too original, inventive, and ingenious a people to succeed as mere imitators; they have achieved, and ever will con-

tinue to achieve, more as inventors and designers than as followers and copyists of a foreign school.

The subjects of these engravings usually had reference to the common scenes of city and country life, to their various national games, chiefly wrestling matches, to crucifixions, and distorted male and female figures, to their chief temples and public buildings, and, of course, to their sacred mountain Fusi-yama.

The three latter were apparently truthful; but all the others partook more of the aspect of caricatures than of natural appearances, and were undoubtedly calculated to impart an exaggerated and distorted idea of most of the subjects to which they referred; thus, for instance, there was one scene of a trial of strength between two wrestlers, in which the size of the latter was largely out of proportion with the individuals composing the audience—apparently some eight hundred pounds in weight each—while their surplus fat hung about their huge necks and shoulders like the folds of the skin of the rhinoceros. I came to the opinion that this fault of exaggeration was an intentional one, for the purpose of intensifying particular effects. These fellows were

wrestling on the sawdusted pit of an immense amphitheatre, the seats of which were crowded with an admiring audience, while the referees stood off in two separate parties.

While we were examining these lithographs, orders arrived from Jeddo to stop the sale of them ; this, of course, only made us the more anxious to buy. The merchants, however, would no longer sell them to us, and upon our applying to the Japanese-Dutch-Russian interpreter, he replied through the Russian officer before alluded to, who in turn translated it into French, that the Emperor, *i. e.* the Ziogoon, considered that the pictures in question would give too good an idea of what was going on in Japan to the people of other nations, and had ordered that they be all returned to Jeddo. Upon hearing this, some of us at once went through the various stalls before the merchants had a chance to pack them away, and took under our arms every picture that we could lay hands upon.

Rather ruthless, certainly ; but we were unwilling to forego the novelty. Of course the merchants said that we could not have them ; that they were not for sale, and only to be looked

at ; that they would not receive payment for them, and that they would suffer decapitation to a dead certainty if they allowed us to take them away ; but we nevertheless carried them quietly on board, and, to anticipate the sequel, on the next day they in as quiet and matter of course a manner received payment for them, through the officials, their heads being still appended to their neck and shoulders.

Thus it was that pictures were added to the list of articles which, by express orders of the Emperor, were not to be sold, bartered, or given to persons living outside of Japan ; this list—a lengthy one—included swords, string and wind musical instruments of elaborate workmanship, theodolites, aneroids, thermometers, porcelain and lacquer globes terrestrial and geographical, junks and boats in miniature, books, telescopes, clocks, everything in the shape of an offensive or defensive weapon, all tools of every trade and description, and the coins of the country. As fast as anything was thus embargoed, it was immediately packed up and sent back into the country. It took us several hours to see enough of the varied and beautiful dis-

play of the rare specimens of their ingenious workmanship that were crowded upon the shelves and floors of every stall; but the thing which surprised us most, was to see the prices of the various articles marked on them in dollars and cents, just as goods may be seen ticketed in the windows and at the doors of shops down the Broadway in New York.

I subsequently learned the secret of this from the Japanese interpreter, who, with an unabridged edition of Webster's Dictionary, and an immense pile of detached pieces of information in the form of symbols, and words and sentences obtained from the officers of Perry's and other squadrons at his elbow, was rapidly and with dogged perseverance informing himself as to our language and customs in general. I could not but conclude that the Japanese, quick of apprehension as they are, and with a ready adaptation for the acquisition and knowledge of languages as much as for that of the arts and sciences, would soon know much more about us and the rest of the world than ever we or the rest of the world should about them; unless, indeed, another treaty more finally opened their ports.

“Once let the interpreters master the English language; once let the literature of England be introduced into Japan, and,” said I, “the day of their seclusion will be over—they will no longer wish to expel us from their shores.”

These price tickets had been written by the interpreter for the use of the merchants, who paid him handsomely for the favour; hence their aversion to let these tallies go with the goods. For instance, when anything was bought, they invariably took them off and deposited them for future use in a sort of desk as carefully as we should have done bank notes; many of us, however, wishing to gain possession of these tickets, objected to this practice, and succeeded in obtaining them at an extra charge of from fifty to a hundred cash (three to six cents) each, and this for the pleasure of letting our friends at home see their presents just as we had seen them in the sunny land of Fusiyama.

The interpreter, I observed, had his pocket-book filled with slips of bamboo paper, on which he wrote prescribed values in both Japanese and dollars and cents, as he was applied to from time to time by the merchants; the Japanese

character was necessary for the guidance of the sellers, who, of course, kept their accounts according to their customary method, but were nevertheless astonishingly familiar with the relative value of our coins with respect to their own. The interpreter was evidently wide awake as to the propriety of turning an honest itzabu.

Speaking of the system of monetary exchange, an American dollar is worth in China from fourteen to sixteen hundred cash, and a Japanese itzabu is worth in Japan sixteen hundred cash also. An American dollar has a little more silver in it than three itzabu. Now, by Perry's treaty, the silver dollar is rated at sixteen hundred cash, or one itzabu only, thus giving a currency profit of two hundred per cent. in favour of the Japanese. When payment was made in gold, a form which they much disliked, the result was the same; but the Japanese, nevertheless, gained nothing by the exchange, owing to the difference in value between silver and gold being much less than in other parts of the world.

In reply to my inquiries as to why this was, the interpreter said that it was as easy to dig



for the one metal as the other ; and the thought struck me, that if Japan was accessible, and its coin allowed to leave the empire, it would be a splendid speculation to take out there a cargo of block silver, or British silver money, and exchange it for their gold.

There is an article in Perry's treaty which provides that *Americans do purchase everything through the officers of the Government, and no other*, consequently vendors of all ranks were prohibited from and refused to sell to any of us without the official intervention of an officer ; the penalty of disobedience, in this respect, was death. There is no doubt as to the Japanese rule being the most despotic on the face of the earth, in every respect, yet the government works well, and the people are happy and contented under its administration.

As we selected the different articles of our choice, we were followed by one, two, or three native boys in the service of the merchants, as the extent of our purchase might require. As soon as one object was bought, we entered its price and description on our list, and passed on to something else, while our watchful attendant

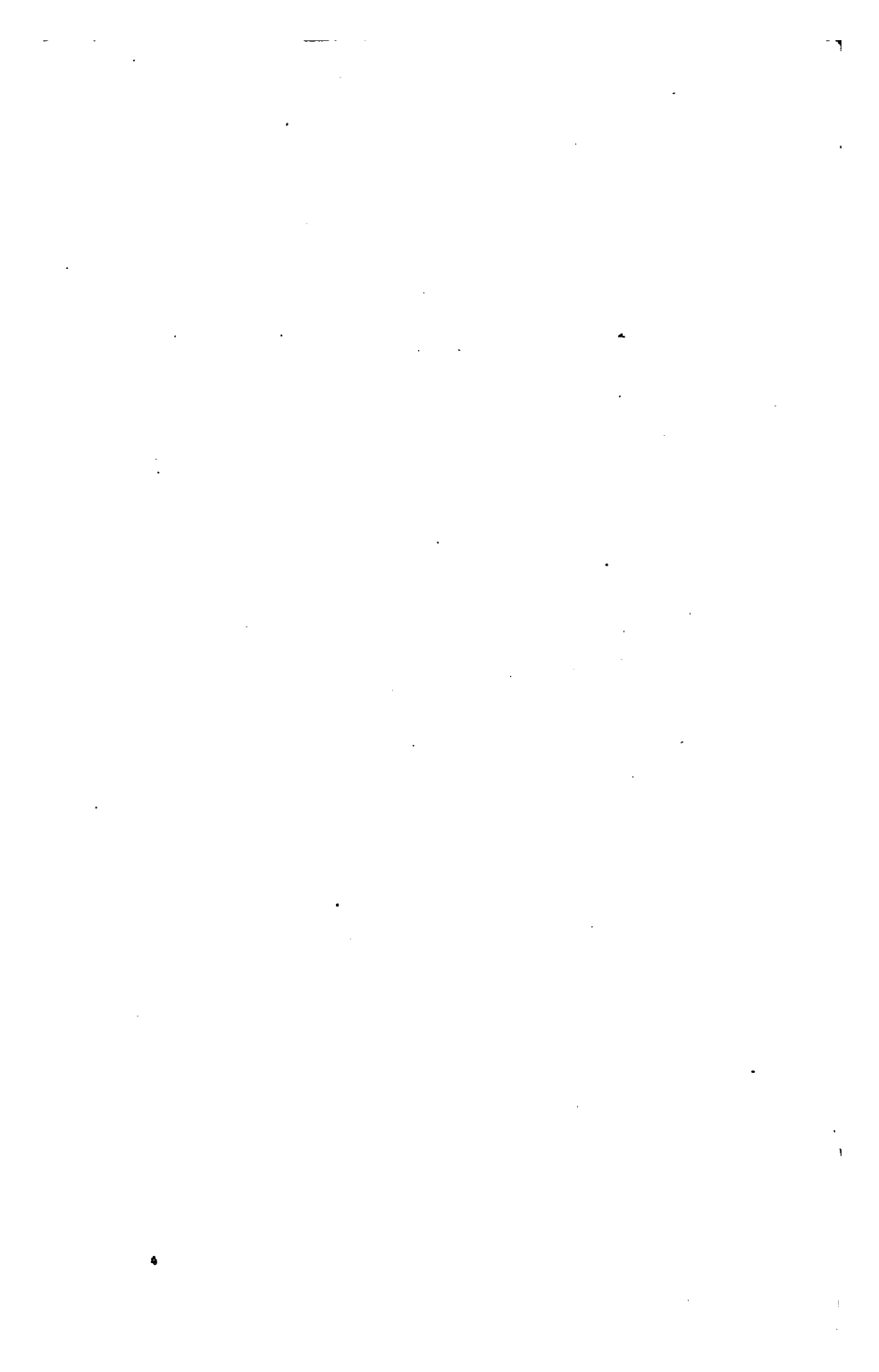
picked it up and followed us round as long as we lingered in the particular stall to which he belonged. On concluding our purchases with each respective merchant, we had to cross the court to the sitting-room of the officials who had charge of the affair, and whom we from time to time found seated as before, stretched à la Turque around the brasier and its ruddy glow, smoking their short, diminutive pipes of fragrant tobacco, and drinking their pure, unsophisticated tea, all of Japanese workmanship and growth. They would then write out a list of the articles brought by the boys who followed us, count the cost, compare their amount with ours and that of the merchant, and then receive it from us in silver dollars, the traders not receiving money from us under any circumstances.

The goods were then delivered to us, and an acknowledgment on a slip of paper given by the officers to the merchant, to the effect that the Government of the empire owed him an itzabu for each dollar that had been paid in. As night approached, and business was suspended for the day, all the dollars that had been received were



STAYWARD & DIXON, LITH.

A STREET IN SIMODA.



counted in the presence of the several officials, placed carefully in a box, and forthwith forwarded to Jeddo, where they went into the mint as itzabu only, and came out in the form of three itzabu with a fraction in some fourth itzabu. One of the latter coin for every dollar received was then sent back to Simoda, and the acknowledgments redeemed.

Thus it will be seen that if a merchant sold one hundred itzabu worth of goods, he received his money in full and in good time, while at the same time the Government cleared a fraction over sixty-seven cents on every silver dollar that we expended, the latter, as I have said, having a weight in silver more than three times that of the itzabu. Here certainly was a defect in Perry's treaty. I was shown some of the native money by one of the merchants, the first I had seen, viz. three pieces, two of which were parallelogramic squares and one circular, with a square cavity in the centre; the one was of silver, and a little over the weight of a half-crown; the next of gold, and somewhat heavier than half a sovereign, but both representing an equal value, namely, sixteen mace, or, according to British currency, five and four-

pence; the third was a thin copper coin, known as cash, one hundred of them constituting a mace. Each of the square coins had a raised border of leaves, and the name of the civil emperor—the Ziogoon—engraved in the centre. On the reverse side was stamped the value of the coin, together with the arms of the Mikado, or spiritual emperor, and the date of its issue. These coins were as well executed as any that were ever paid over the counter to me on dividend days by the *Old Lady in Threadneedle Street*, and this is saying much for the Japanese artizans in metallurgy, who are just as clever, I may mention, at metallochromy, judging by several specimens which we had submitted to us at the bazaar.

Once more the drums and fifes were at play, and once more we skimmed the rippling waters of the beautiful bay, and viewed the refulgent hues of sunset tinting the heavens with grandeur half divine, gladdening the earth with a brilliant effulgence, and tinging the waste we fanned with feathered oars with dyes of purple and of gold. Hail, beautiful sunset! thy heaven-born radiance buoyeth up the weary with precious

joy. Grand, magnificent, inspiring, sublime loveliness ; there is nothing in the majesty of the elements to equal thy splendour, thy influence. The lightning may dazzle, the thunder may crash and appal, but what giveth hope and comfort, and maketh the heart glad and exalteth imagination, like the glorious sunset of an eastern or a southern clime ! To us in England, it is beautiful, it is holy ; but how much more intense, and grand, and transcendent is its mighty presence in the sunny regions of even Japan, where all is smiles and beauty, and nature is everywhere prodigal of her choicest gifts.

## CHAPTER III.

FOR three days following we went ashore regularly, to attend the bazaar, each day observing something new and more attractive than anything before exhibited. We soon saw that it formed one part of the policy of the Japanese to dispose of the most common and least attractive of their wares, before offering the choicest specimens. Perhaps this was to induce a prolonged sale, surmising that although we might stock ourselves in the first instance, we should nevertheless continue to buy so long as more *recherché*, unique, and highly finished articles made their appearance; and they were



shrewd judges. Day after day, therefore, as we returned and lounged through the crowded show-rooms, new articles of unexpected beauty and rare excellence of workmanship presented themselves before us at every turn, and casting into shade everything of the kind previously bought, as well as making us yearn for heavier pockets or more reasonable charges ; but our dollars were at a discount—two hundred per cent. discount—what a painful reflection for us ; moreover, it was supposed that we were taken advantage of in other ways ; that, for instance, the merchants would watch us with scrutinizing glances while we examined their various articles, and judge with astonishing accuracy as to those we most admired ; the result of which was, that on the next day all such articles would be advanced, sometimes doubled, in price, the old tallies taken off and replaced by others with higher marks on them.

There was, however, no use in talking—remonstrance would be as futile as it would be uncomprehended ; the prices were marked in plain black and white—English and Japanese ; we had either to buy on the terms stated, or adopt the

other alternative of *leaving them alone*. Each article of lacquer ware, and things of superior quality and price, were supplied to us in very neat boxes of white scented cedar, but inferior trifles were allowed paper wrappings only. While exposed for sale, all of the former were placed on the top of their empty boxes, the latter being stowed in promiscuous quantities, and treated with much less consideration.

As soon as any object was bought, it became a custom for the individual to say—"Put it in a box," or "Put it in paper;" and the watchful ears of the Japanese soon caught and distinguished these sounds, while their observing eyes told them that whenever they were uttered, something had been purchased. Thus, with an exceedingly imperfect idea of what the words literally meant, they would fix their oblique glittering eyes upon us, as we lingered over their wares, and encourage us to buy, by repeating our expression from time to time, as they observed us to hesitate. "Huttim in a yox?" they would say with the most fluent ease, and quite comprehending what *huttim in a yox* meant; but after the third day they pronounced *put it*

*in a box*, and *put it in paper*, and several other English idioms, exactly as we did ourselves, and knew their meaning just as correctly.

So much for Japanese intelligence and quickness of apprehension, as well as their ready adaptability for the acquisition of foreign languages. As an illustration of their lively perception, when I took up a common cheap article, on one occasion, a lead pencil, accompanied with the request to put it in a box, the merchant took hold of and held it, while with a look of somewhat nonplussed enquiry and surprise, he ejaculated—"No put him in a box," which was meant to signify that its price would only allow of a paper wrapping. This was fit food for laughter, so we made a joke of it, and swallowed it with a relish.

One of the objects introduced on the third day of *the fair*, most worthy of admiration, was an artificial bird,—an ordinary chicken hawk, and it was decidedly the most naturally executed work of art I ever saw in any country. No feather-work specimen from the Brazils, Madeira, or yet any other part of the world, ever excelled—ever equalled it. It was the first thing

of the kind that we had seen or heard of, and peculiar only to Japan. We were told that these imitation birds were very plentiful at Jeddo, and that the one we saw was by no means equal to many of them. The one alluded to was perched upon an ivory rail, supported above an elegantly lacquered stand, and from one leg an exquisitely wrought chain, also of ivory, secured him to his perch. When first seen, he was invariably taken for a live bird, everything was so perfect and natural. There was also exhibited a most beautiful fabric, in the form of a scarf, about four feet in length by six inches in width, and of the richest dye,—a crimson,—that I had ever seen. This fabric, which, for want of a name, some one called crimped crape, was capable of being stretched to a length of twenty feet while retaining its width undiminished. Upon being “let go,” after being thus elongated, it would spring back, India-rubber like, to its former length. We subsequently observed that the women used it largely for tying up their hair, and that after being worn a short time, its elasticity became greatly impaired. I purchased a sample-piece

of it, which months afterwards I showed to some young ladies, who said to me so winningly, *what a sweet scarf it would make*; but it was alas! in vain, for the sample was all that I had to offer them, that is to say, so far as the fabric Japanese was concerned. Hem!

All the cottons, silks, crapes, and other tissues manufactured in Japan, are uniformly in pieces of this one width—six inches—it is therefore doubtful whether, in the event of an international trade springing up, British cottons, and the silks of our market, which are so much wider, would be readily absorbed by the Japanese.

Leaving the bazaar on the afternoon of the third day, accompanied by one of the Anglo-Saxon Sandwich Islanders, with whom the reader is already acquainted, and who was in high dudgeon at having just had a gold eagle flatly refused by the officers in payment for some purchase at the said bazaar, the result of which was, that rather than forego the desired article, he was compelled to sacrifice ten silver dollars in lieu of the gold eagle alluded to,—I strolled forth to inspect the streets of Simoda.

The houses of the town I found on ex-

amination were of two kinds, namely, those built of rough stone masonry, and those built of upright poles placed very close together, and plastered over like laths, nevertheless both descriptions much resembled each other, and presented a somewhat similar external aspect. There was one distinguishing peculiarity, however, I observed, which was, that the houses of stone-work had tiled roofs, whereas the others were thatched with bamboo and bark shreds. Within, these dwellings were partitioned off into several mysterious apartments, each provided with doors hung on metal or wooden hinges, and fastening by means of latches.

In the centre of the common sitting-room of each house there was a square hole, built in with tiles, and filled with sand, in which a charcoal fire was kept burning, while, suspended above it, supported by a tripod, was the tea-kettle of bronze silver. The method of preparing tea in Japan is similar to our own; the infusion commonly drunk is weak, except where the powdered leaf is used, in which case a spoonful is put into a cup of boiling water, and beaten up into a froth,

which imparts a strong, bitter flavour to the beverage. Native-grown tea is alone consumed, and in quality it is quite equal to that of the *Flowery land*.

The floors of all those houses which we entered were raised about a foot above the outer ground or passage, and were covered with oblong sections of thick matting, which fitted so neatly together that there were no interstices. These mats were as soft as the seat of an ordinary hair sofa, and were always kept beautifully clean—both inmates and visitors leaving their sandals in a square earthen cavity or verandah near the door, before stepping upon them. The rooms received light and ventilation through most ingeniously contrived windows. Glass not being in general use, a very strong and semi-transparent bamboo paper was used instead; the latter being stretched very tightly across the window-frame, and glued down along the four sides. These frames were just like our own, with the exception of the cross pieces of ribs being flat, in order to allow of a stronger adhesion of the paper. They were fitted on either side of the dwelling, and gave more light than might be imagined, from

the description ; their motion, when opened, was to and fro, like folding doors, and the strength of their paper panes was so great that any ordinarily small missile, although striking with considerable force, would rebound as from a tightly snared drum-head. Of course the inmates were unable to see what was taking place outside in the streets, but then they had the advantage of being equally hidden from the common gaze. If they wished for fresher air, or were curious, they had merely to slide the frames sideways.

The paper of the windows, and the sliding screens which divided the apartments, were in nearly every case adorned with coloured figures, landscape drawings, and pictures of birds, generally the stork, a feathered biped, almost as sacred as Fusi-yama to the Japanese. The walls of the apartments also, were frequently hung with gaily painted representations on cardboard, of the winged tortoise, the porpoise, and the phoenix ; but by far the most numerous figures were those of dragons, and the beautiful dogs and tailless Isle-of-Man-looking cats of the country. Both the latter are held in great esteem



throughout the empire, the cats, especially, are cherished to an extent with which the attention of even the old maids of England to the feline race would bear no comparison.

These houses, which, I may mention, were the residences of the governed, and not the governing classes, ranged from twenty to thirty yards square, the proportion of two-storied ones being about equal to those having one story only.

We came in front of a temple which covered, including its outbuildings, more than two acres of ground ; but into this we could not procure admission. It was but rarely used as a place of worship, being the property of one of the princes of Nipon, and appropriated as the quarters of the retainers attached to his personal court whenever he visited Simoda, generally for the levying and collection of taxes, the inspection of estates, and such matters as were under the control of the civil emperor, who holds his court at Jeddo, and where all these princes, when they travel, as is their periodical custom, leave their wives and children, in testimony of their prompt return with the prescribed funds.

Some of the better class of houses had piazzas,

which were tiled over like the roofs, and covered with a pleasing exuberance of the passion-flower. We arrived in front of one of these comfortable-looking two-storied establishments towards the end of our ramble, and from which there came sounds of pleasant music.

“Hillo!” exclaimed my companion, as if in astonishment, “Music—eh—listen—Do you hear?”

And then, as if suddenly seized with an uncontrollable attack of Yankee curiosity and inquisitiveness, and without pausing to consider of the politeness and propriety of the procedure, he at once commenced climbing up to the roof of the porch, to see, as he said, what was going on. For a moment he appeared to be looking with eager satisfaction upon the sight before him, but as quickly a cloud seemed to cross his face, and he came down with a sober, nonplussed smile, and an aspect considerably chapfallen.

“Serve’s me right,” said he. “I was looking in at the second-floor window. Three musicians were seated on the inner side of the matted floor, in the centre of which was a large lacquer tray full of viands, of which a middle-aged

Japanese, and a young, highly-dressed, and very pretty girl were partaking with unmistakable relish, when—" He paused.

"Yes," said I, "go on."

"The man got up with a quiet dignity which put me to the blush, and—"

"Yes," said I again, "go on."

"Shut the window in my face."

A hearty laugh was my ready response to this, and I quite agreed with him that he had been served perfectly right, and that he would do well to respect the privacy of others in his future rambles about Simoda in particular, and the world in general.

After this, we entered one of the bathing saloons, of which there were four, even in this small town. An erroneous impression prevails with respect to the common morality and lewdness of the Japanese. As a people, they are the most virtuous, individually and collectively, of any nation extant. A contrary report has gained ground, owing to their habit of promiscuous bathing, male and female in the one bath, and *in puris naturalibus*. But it must be understood that they recognise no harm in doing so—that

no harm has ever come of it, and that the practice is continued because their ancestors for ages did so before them. There is no lack of practical morality amongst them, and there is no country in the world where the ties of marriage are held more sacred than in Japan; while the virgins are equally chaste, and perfectly correct in their intercourse with strangers. There is not an instance on record to the contrary. They in this, as in most other respects, present a pleasing contrast to the Chinese, although they are perfectly free of the restraints commonly imposed upon the ladies of the *Flowery Land*.

Like most Orientals, the Japanese, to speak figuratively, are a nation of ducks,—their greatest luxury consisting in vapour, warm, or surf bathing,—and much of their time is devoted to lavatory enjoyments. They are, with the exception of the Malays, some of the Pacific Islanders, and the followers of Mahomet, the most cleanly people I ever saw.

However, to the bath-house, in which we now stood; the charge for admission was uniformly two cash—about one eighth of a cent—alike with each of the other saloons of Simoda;

but from us, as foreigners, no money was allowed to be taken without the intervention of a two-sworded official, and as it happened that there was no such personage present, we were admitted *scot free*, that is, simply not recognised. I must mention, that this was a hot medical spring bath, of which there are many over the country in various directions, and to which the more feeble multitudes resort for the enjoyment of their real or supposed virtues. It was situated at the foot of a lofty hill, beautifully terraced with cultivation, about two miles up the valley that runs back from Simoda, and on its southern side. There were eight bathers present, including one man and two young children. The gush from the spring was boiling through a fissure in the rock with a power indicative of a bountiful source. This full flow, however, we were informed, was by no means constant, the stream of water being occasionally very attenuated, while at other times the spring was characterised by a spasmodic fountain-like action, that projected large quantities of water, and at a much higher temperature than during an even flow, so much so that the

bathers kept aloof from the jet, to avoid being scalded.

My companion informed me that all these springs were sulphurous, but he had evidently no authority to back the statement. However, I at once stooped down, and leaning over the pool, tried to get a cupful of the water before its admixture with that in which the bathers had been floundering all day ; but, owing to the peculiar construction of the bathing-place, I found it impracticable.

This latter was partly hewn out of the rock, and partly walled up with boards, the seams of which were tightly caulked. It was about three feet and a half in depth, and was furnished with a bamboo point running through the wall at that height, which acted as a constant drain to allow of the escape of the surplus water. The fountain itself was at the bottom of this, and consequently it was no easy matter to get an uncontaminated cupful.

At last, I gave up the attempt: the risk of my tasting water that had been in contact with the skin of various bathers was too great ; my devotion to science would not permit of it. In

this respect I was quite unlike a certain Irish curator—old Grimghost or Grimdeath, as I used to call him—attached to the anatomical museum at the ——— University School of Medicine, in my dissecting days, who was in the constant habit of tasting old spirit and old brine that had been doing duty for years in the preservation of mortified flesh and diseased entrails, just for the sake of ascertaining their strength for continued duty. Moreover, this gentleman, who I may mention drank tea four times a-day, and was the thinnest man and most seeming mummy I had ever the felicity of seeing alive, was in the equally constant habit of wiping all the shreds of human flesh that he had occasion to nip off during his operation of dressing a *case* to look well in a glass, on to his rough overcoat, and he never to my knowledge wore any other coat for two years, either in winter or summer. The consequence was, he not being addicted to the use of a clothes-brush, that the scraps stuck to and dried fast on to his rough coat, and diversified its appearance so much, that what with these and the thousands of various anatomical-museum stains it had undergone, its original colour was

scarcely distinguishable, so much so that it would have astonished its own tailor.

This coat, be it known, notwithstanding the severe service of the day, did a double duty at night, namely in the capacity of a bed counterpane over himself and wife,—I had the skeleton's—I mean the curator's—own word for it, or I should not have credited the fact.

“Upon my honour, sir, I assure you it's the case,” said he, one day, as he twisted a pair of lungs about with his forceps over a dish of spirit and water, as if they had been specimens of French cookery that he had just stuck his fork into for the purpose of carving. He certainly looked as though he meant to make his dinner of them.

This same individual was also in the habit of disposing of the blue willow-patterned plates and dishes, as also the stone jars which had been used for the temporary preservation of the cases, entrusted to him to *put up* in a more permanent form, to crockery-sellers and marine store-dealers, from whom they were of course promptly bought by thrifty housewives ;—plates and dishes, reader, impregnated with the essence of corruption, and



jars that had for years absorbed the animal poison they held, and still destined to bear hashed mutton and to hold the family pickles. Human bones were sometimes added to his other perquisites, and these went the way of the earthenware, but happily never mingled again, save in knife handles, with living men; but in this capacity they might some day have come cheek and jowl with their old companions of the museum—the plates.

I am again discursive; let me return to Japan and the bathing saloon. I have said that I was not sufficiently devoted to the cause of science to taste the water, but I put my hand in it and tried, in vain, however, to detect the existence of sulphur by the sense of smell.

The boiling was beautifully even and regular. We were informed, that when the water was drawn off at night, and the fountain consequently relieved of the superincumbent three feet of water, it spouted up as a jet *d'eau* to nearly double that altitude.

The bath-house enclosing this spring and vat-like pool, was of bamboo construction, and round its sides were ranged benches also of

bamboo. We seated ourselves on one of these in front of the bathers ; but our presence evidently acted in no way as a restraint over their proceedings. Men and women, old, middle-aged, and young alike divested themselves of their garments in the most matter-of-fact style, and mixed unconcernedly in the common centre of attraction. They also acted in some cases as body servants to each other without the slightest regard to their respective sex.

Leaving the hot spring behind us, we made our way direct for the beach, with a view to catching the ship's boat. As we emerged from out the shade of myrtle-like trees, in the immediate vicinity of some village, or rather outskirts of Simoda, enjoying the most unpronounceable of names, we suddenly came in full view of about two hundred naked women and children, with a small sprinkling of men, all dancing in the surf and manifesting their delight by much gamboling and goodhumoured screaming. I was quite taken aback by the sight.

"I never saw so many before at once," remarked my companion, "but they bathe here every afternoon." On the day following this, we—

that is, I and my companion the Anglo-Saxon Sandwich Islander, who had his curiosity blighted in so effective a manner by the process of window shutting—visited one of the ordinary bathing houses of Simoda. He, the wall climber, acquainted me with the fact of these places not being much used during the heat of the day, so, to avoid the crowd,—we should rather have courted it,—it was during the heat of the day that we chose to go. As they say at Panama, Englishmen and dogs go out in all weathers.

Upon our arrival at the establishment we found it just being vacated by an old woman of the most hideous and dilapidated aspect, while another, who did not appear to enjoy much superiority to her in point of beauty, held open the bamboo door and motioned us to enter. Surmising, in all probability, that we had come to observe their mode of bathing, she signified to us by signs that there were no bathers present just then, but pointing to the benches for us to be seated, she gave us to understand that there soon would be. It was now that the Japanese of the Yankee was called into requisition, but it was with considerable difficulty that he made her

to understand the object of our visit, namely to see the arrangement of the hot-water apparatus, and satisfy our curiosity in general with respect to a Niponese bath,

It was ludicrous to observe the gestures and hear the ejaculations of the old woman and her would-be interrogator, neither understanding each other, in spite of their most earnest endeavour. However, the old lady pointed to a large dark-looking hole at the extremity of the room, that very much resembled a huge old-fashioned wood fire-place, with the back knocked out, and through which she invited us to walk. We took advantage of the permission, and at the expense of wet feet, and the inhalation of a quantity of a steamy, disagreeable atmosphere, achieved the object of our visit.

We found the inner apartment into which the chimney-like passage opened, to be a room of about ten feet in length, by eight in width, and containing an immense cauldron in the centre, built round, or rather, encircled by a low wall of cemented stones. It was filled to the brim with hot water, from which arose constant clouds of steam, that dispersed among a dozen or more

rafters, whose elevation from the stone floor was just sufficient to permit of our walking upright under them.

We ascertained that this cauldron was not filled more than three times a day, it being so large that the water held retained its heat several hours. Rather hot, I thought, for bather number one. Then, as it cooled gradually, and lost a portion of its purity with each successive individual user, the price of admission was reduced to a single cash. In one corner of this apartment was also a smaller vessel, into which a constant stream of cold water emptied through a bamboo tube, so keeping it in an overflowing state, unless the bathers present were very numerous, in which case the demand might for a time equal the supply. This was the tank into which those desiring a shower bath after the hot bathing dipped their buckets, dozens of which were ranged round the walls, something after the fire engine—engine-shed style of our own country ;—those presiding buckets of ours always look ominous, they are like watchful spirits guarding the sleeping god of fire-water.

As we concluded our examination of the inner

apartment and again stooped under the chimney-like passage-way into the outer room, we came face to face with half-a-dozen of either sex and various ages, who had entered since our arrival, and who were now engaged in the process of disrobing, preparatory to taking a dip in the cauldron flood. We lingered and observed.

After immersion, and a flounder in the hot bath, they each proceeded into the outer apartment, and took up two buckets, invariably one in each hand, filled them from the overflowing tank under the bamboo pipe, and carried them into the next room. They would then respectively hand the buckets to one of the other bathers, and assume a stooping posture, while the party deposed would mount on to one of the appointed benches, and successively pour the two buckets of water over the individual desiring it; the water escaping through a number of two or three inch holes in the centre of the pavement.

Our presence did not appear to cause either surprise or confusion, and before leaving, as we tried to prevail upon the old woman in charge to accept of some small silver, which we tendered her in reward for her attention, but which she

*would not* take, alike with the unofficial public of all Japan, they crowded round us, naked as they were, to see what it was all about, evidently quite regardless of all appearances.

The Sandwich Islander took the liberty of nudging one of them under the ribs, which so much took the latter aback, that had he been a sword-wearer I should have feared a repetition of the sign of the letter X; but as it happened otherwise, he simply recovered from his stagger, and re-entered the hot bath with a haughty step and in high dudgeon, as if to purify himself from the defilement of the insulter's touch.

## CHAPTER III.

ON the morning following that last chronicled, we drew anchor and left Simoda before a light land breeze and under a full spread of canvass, worked our way slowly to the southward, keeping well in with the land, and sailing in its windings, from point to point. Several Russian officers who had crossed the mountains on foot to Simoda to pay us a visit, and who arrived on the afternoon previous, took passage with us, and added to the interest of the trip, by pointing out and naming various villages that we passed, and indulging us with accounts of their experience among the Japanese. Each of these spoke



the French language with fluency, and one of them expressed himself in tolerable English. They had no adventures to narrate, however, beyond the foundering of their ship ; they absolutely knew less than ourselves about the people and the country of Japan. I have not said that we were bound to the port of Ha-da, distant about forty miles from Simoda, and where the Russians were now camped.

Hakodadi, Nagasaki, Simoda, and Napa-kiang-Too-kew, were the only ports we had a right to enter, under the terms of Perry's treaty ; but our commander was desirous of making soundings in Ha-da, with a view to ascertain its fitness as a port of shelter for vessels in distress ; the treaty mentioning that any such might fly for refuge into any port of Japan.

We made a pleasant run over forty miles of water, and in full view of a rocky but boldly picturesque coast, which was beautifully diversified with many an undulation, and here and there a group of stately trees perched on the summit of the hills. We were looking about for the harbour, or at least signs of its existence, when suddenly we hove in sight of its very

mouth. So deeply was it hidden from the sea, that a strange vessel might have tacked to and fro in its vicinity for days without ascertaining that any such harbour existed there.

Now, too, was revealed, in all its majesty and magnificence, the sacred mountain of Japan. Yes, before us loomed high and far the worshipped Fusiyama. Suddenly, relieved by a passing squall of its dense envelope of cloud, it now lifted its snowy head far into the celestial blue. There it stood, a vast truncated cone, whose even slope to the northward was washed by the bright and rolling waters of the bay, while its southern base receded gradually, for tens of miles, into the interior. Its crest of snow reflected the weakened rays of the declining sun ; an uneven belt of constant clouds hovered round and about its centre, and below that, the indigo blue of its sweeping sides filled up the imposing picture.

Here one of the Russians informed us that when the several hundred Japanese boats before alluded to, were towing their crippled frigate from Simoda to this port of Ha-da, the day was beautifully clear, the sea smooth, and the air

still, when suddenly a white cloud hid the mountain from their gaze. In a moment the whole line of boats was thrown into the wildest state of confusion—the rowers casting off their lines and pulling for the shore in such haste that it was with difficulty a sufficient number were kept to land the men on board. The white cloud denoted a hurricane, which, by the time that they were safe in under the land, broke over them with terrific violence, at the onset of which the old ship foundered. So much for Fusi-yama as a faithful barometer.

We now approached the curved and narrow entrance of the harbour. As usual, all hands were mustered on deck with glasses and searching eyes to see what there was to be seen, and, of course, to imagine a great deal more. The changing panorama that presented itself on every side was one that irresistibly fascinated and drew forth the eulogistic admiration of every beholder. The air was calm, clear, and of an agreeable warmth. Straight before us a green and inviting valley was fast disclosing itself to our view, the sites of its secluded villages indicated by picturesque groves of closely planted

trees, and the glassy surface of a winding stream breaking out here and there, glittering in and reflecting the slanting rays of the western sun. On our left the southern range of mountains that formed one wall of the valley, stretched their broken length down into the very sea, lifting their uneven ridge several hundred feet above its level, and telling the mariner of deep water along their rugged sides, and friendly shelter under their protecting breasts. To the right, a long, low and curved fragment of land, some one or two hundred yards in width, and densely covered with heavy timber, extended from the northern shore, towards the mountain ridge just described, and terminating abruptly at a point just permitting of a passage of fair width opening into the inner harbour, and forming, with the remaining shore line, a magnificent anchorage ground, in shape resembling a comma. Far astern of us—miles away upon the clearly defined horizon, where the dark blue of the sea, and the azure hue of the heavens met as lovers' lips to limit the circle of vision, loomed out the undulating land that running out into the sea from the downward slope of

Fusiyama's sacred pile, and northern side, formed a horseshoe bay, of huge dimensions. Here, to our imaginations, lurked many a peaceful harbour, banked by many a fertile valley, and here and there a village, where the bright-eyed daughters of Japan revelled away in luxurious delight, surrounded by a civilisation that at least allowed them the blessing of abundance.

As we rounded up into this almost landlocked harbour, the water was as smooth as a millpond, so perfectly protected was it, that not even a ripple was to be seen upon its cool and shady beach. It was a totally different haven to that of Simoda, the great objection to which is its exposed position, influenced as it is by every change in the elements.

As we moved slowly up this tranquil harbour we saw a number of boats moored along the silent beach; these, one of our guests informed me, were the Russian boats, saved when the frigate foundered. But we saw no Russians. The landscape was deserted; the anchor was now let go, and the Captain's gig placed at the disposal of our guests of the land of Moscow, who forthwith went ashore. No sooner had

they touched the beach than swarms of their countrymen presented themselves, many of whom came off in their boats to extend the civilities of the port to us. A stranger to the fact would have been led to suppose it a possession of the Czar, instead of a seaport of Japan, so entirely had the Russians made themselves at home. That night we had nearly all the sunken frigate's officers on board, as also several Japanese of rank, when we introduced them to a bowl of hot whiskey punch, which appeared to be an agreeable novelty to both the sons of the east and the north.

As the punch disappeared, we acquired considerable general knowledge of the empire at large from the Japanese, and that through the Russians, three of whom had already made considerable progress in the language. The Vice-Governor of Ha-da, who had come on board with a haughty reserve characterising his manner, and whose attire was the perfection of neatness and elegance, notwithstanding the gold and silver embroidery, and precious stones with which it was bedizened, grew quite familiar under the *spiritual* influence of the punch-bowl;

—his reserve and dignity vanished, and he slapped us on the back with a jovial hilarity.

He drew his sword several times for our inspection when solicited, and that without the slightest hesitation. The latter was certainly the most beautiful specimen of steel that I ever saw; putting a piece of light silk across it, I swept my arm through the air, and its divided parts floated upon the disturbed atmosphere.

He told us that this sword was one of superior value, made by a celebrated workman in 1750, and had been presented to him by his father, who had long since gone the way of all flesh, having quitted this mortal coil in the ninety-second year of his age; so much, I thought, for Japanese longevity. Amongst other information, we ascertained from this functionary that the supreme Emperor of Japan, having his palace at Miako, where he was served by twenty thousand personal attendants, had twelve wives, and twenty-five other consorts, that neither the hair of his head, nor his beard, nor his nails, were ever cut; that all his victuals were prepared in new vessels, which were broken to pieces immediately after his using them; that

his garments were likewise new every day, and similarly destroyed every night, to prevent their being ever occupied by other limbs ; that when he went abroad he was borne by fourteen attendants, in a palanquin so peculiarly curtained, that he could see without being seen ; that his foot must never touch the ground, nor his body be exposed to the rays of the sun ; that his invariable costume was a black habit, of gold embroidered silk, and a cap of crimson velvet ; that he alone conferred all dignities ; that each of his chief wives had a magnificent palace to herself, with five thousand retainers ; that numerous singing and dancing women were ever present for his diversion ; that the halls and rooms of his palace were covered with plates of gold, and adorned with three hundred and sixty-five idols ; that his body army numbered one hundred thousand foot, and twenty-thousand horse soldiers ; that he was learned in philosophy, mathematics, ethics, and theology ; and that his oratory was so impressive that tears were sometimes evoked on the part of the audience of princes he addressed ; and lastly that his wealth was great, and unbounded. After this I longed



to visit Jeddo, and traverse Miako ; but, alas ! Jeddo was a sealed city, and Miako was sacred.

Let not the reader conjure up visions of universal polygamy ; the emperor of Japan constitutes the sole exception to the law and custom, which, throughout his dominions, allows to one man one wife, and no more.

“Quite enough too,” whispers the ghost of Caudle.

However, that is a question which, as a reveller in single blessedness, I am quite unable to discuss ; and

“Where ignorance is bliss, tis folly to be wise.”

Pardon the twice-hackneyed quotation, but, *ladies*, it is so exceedingly *apropos*, that I hope you may think with me and pronounce it *too good to be lost*.

## CHAPTER IV.

WE left Ha-da on the morning following our arrival there, and sailed direct for the port of Hakodadi, on the southern coast of the island of Jesso, crossing the strait of Sangar on our way, and reaching our destination on the afternoon of the second day out, having experienced two or three heavy squalls in the meantime.

The scenery that presented itself as we sailed up the bay, was bold, mountainous, and beautifully picturesque; volcanic cones reared their giant peaks far into the azure blue, their bald and barren summits contrasting with the prodigality of verdure and forest that decked their

base and clothed the lower landscape. Even before we had anchored we were besieged by numerous boats belonging to the officials of the place, some of whom came on board accompanied by an interpreter of their own country, who spoke a few words only of English and French, but who was completely master of the Dutch language. These mandarins were more gorgeously arrayed than their brethren of Simoda, and in their dressing-gown-looking frocks, encased in blue silk trousers reaching half over beautifully fitting red merino-like stockings, made after the glove manner, and strapped over with the silken cords of neatly-constructed sandals, they looked rather magnificent than otherwise.

Their boats were constructed of unpainted wood, with exceedingly sharp bows, a broad beam, a slightly tapering stern, and a clean run. They were propelled with great swiftness through, or rather over, the water, skimming gaily along its surface. The crews, numbering some thirty in each boat, were tall and muscular men, whose tawny frames were naked, with the exception of a cotton girdle.

At night, however, they wore loose large sleeved frocks, of red or blue colours, emblazoned with various devices in black and gold. They were nearly all bareheaded, and showed that the hair had been shaven off the front as far as the crown ; the side locks, however, had been allowed to grow long, and were worn plastered with ointment, and fastened into the usual tuft-like knot upon the shaven top. The few caps we saw were of bamboo, in shape resembling shallow and inverted basins. Some of the men held up long poles, each surmounted by a cruciform ornament, which we subsequently ascertained was the crest of some particular official concerned. The two-sworded gentlemen wore light lacquered hats, with a coat of arms in front, signifying their public rank. The rowers stood to their oars, which worked on pivots upon the sides of the boat near the stern, and they handled them with such skill and effect that they made the boat shoot forward like an arrow, shouting loudly as they went. At the stern of each boat was a small flag with three horizontal stripes in it, a white one on either side, and a black one in the middle, while in many of the boats there was also

another flag much larger, and covered with symbols.

Hakodadi we found to present a very different aspect to Simoda, the former being much larger, at least three times its size, and situated at the foot of a curved and towering promontory, which was attached to the mainland by a long low neck of land, shaping the most magnificent of harbours.

Strolling ashore, to the evident surprise, interest, and curiosity of the inhabitants, and the partial dismay of the two-sworded officials, numbers of whom made their appearance in our vicinity, we indulged in the pleasures of observation. We found the houses, as a whole, much more inviting than at Simoda, each having an ample verandah, and circled by its own allotted garden, which, small in itself, was invariably laid out on the largest possible scale. The endeavour to make a landscape of a flower-bed was everywhere evident in the arrangement of the gardens, even to the back-ground of imitation hills; nevertheless, the effect was pleasing. It was the ocean in a tea cup; but what of that?—the flowers were gay and fragrant, and

refreshing was the sight of the patchy verdure which decked the view ; therefore, what could we do but admire ?

I had the audacity to intrude my presence into one of the houses, the door being open ; I found two ladies and a gentleman sitting cross-legged after the manner of the Turks and Persians, on a thickly-carpeted floor, eating confectionery, and drinking tea. My appearance evidently startled them ; but after much gesticulation I pacified them, and pulling out a sketch of the sloop and harbour, that I had just taken, I indicated my recent arrival by her. But I could not comfort them, so I took my departure with many bows, which were politely returned by the then standing party. While in the house, however, I had the opportunity of observing the characteristic mode of eating and drinking ; they each fed themselves with two small ivory sticks which they handled with an easy dexterity, which did not allow of the escape of a single crumb, and in drinking they occasionally held the cup at some distance, and poured the tea in a stream into their mouths, without spilling a drop. As in all Japanese houses, the apartments were unencumbered with

furniture, no beds, tables, or chairs being used throughout the empire, where the carpet of soft matting is the invariable bed and seat; but the ceilings and staircases were of fine cedar, chequered with plates of gold of the most curious workmanship, and bordered with a variety of costly ornaments. There is no danger of house-breaking in Japan, the people universally being as honest as their women are modest and virtuous, and as their oratory is eloquent as their language.

From the blackened teeth of the elder of the two ladies, I perceived that she had been married, while by the absence of that feature in the other, her virginity was apparent.

The houses were chiefly of white stone, or an imitation of such, and two-storied, each being furnished with hot and cold water bath-rooms. We found public bathing, however, conducted exactly as at Simoda, and in all other respects the people were alike in their habits of life.

We found much to interest us about the shores of this magnificent bay, the chief object of which was a marine cave of vast dimensions, chambered out of the rocky and surf-worn pro-

montory by some vast convulsion of nature, and now held sacred to their sea-god by the Japanese fishermen. *We*, in all probability, should have remained ignorant of its existence, had it not been for its accidental discovery by a cruising party in one of the ship's boats. The first description that we had of it was to the effect of its having an arch-like entrance, and being profoundly dark; that it could only be entered in a boat, and that the roaring of a heavy surf or waterfall could be heard from the outside; that a heavy swell rolled into it, while its rocky mouth was whitened by a sulphurous vapour, and that from the current which set into it, there was evidently another outlet. Off we went on the morning after the discovery, equipped with matches and lanterns, plenty of line, and half a chest of tools to penetrate this mysterious cave. We were ten in number, including the rowers, two small boys—juvenile tars—with blue flannel collars worn *à la Byron*, with several inches of exaggeration.

We arrived in front of the cave, and having previously fastened a deep-sea lead line to a projecting fragment of rock, proceeded to back



boldly in under the gloomy and resounding archway. The oars were now taken in, while with hands and boathooks we urged her cautiously through the thickening gloom, at the same time keeping a light strain on the line to hold on by, in the event of the possible whirlpool proving a reality. The boat moved slowly out of daylight, rising and falling over the heavy swell, and grating harshly against the rocky and unseen projections of her cavernous track. We began to think that the roof of the archway might get lower with unpleasant suddenness as we progressed, and that the next swell might bring our heads in crushing contact with it, for so very dark was the cave, that it reminded me of the London Dock vaults in the absence of torches, although it far surpassed in its depth and profoundness those sombre depositories of wooded wine,—so much so, that even with our lights we were unable to see the rugged walls against which our boat was scraping.

“Let us turn back,” said one. “Confound the darkness!” said another, and a confusion of voices was added to the sound of rushing waters. “The boat’s too heavily laden—better go in two

or three at a time," remarked a third. They were nervously apprehensive of sudden destruction. I was seated in the bows with my feet resting against the stem, and joining the popular side as eagerly as any one on board, I pulled well on the line, while several others did the same thing, the result of which was, that the boat shot rapidly from darkness into day again, pursued by the gurgling voices of the sea god's cave. Six of the party jumped upon the rocks outside, to there await the return of the boat, which now contained four of our number only, the two rowing boys excepted. We backed in as before, but involuntarily I held on the rope, and brought the boat to a standstill. This allowed time for our eyes to adapt themselves to the darkness. The dark outlines of a vast and domelike apartment now grew every moment more distinct before us, until, with the assistance of our lights, we could see with an almost cat-like instinct.

Slackening the line and trusting to the eyes at the other end of the boat, I gave her an energetic shove, when back she went into the cave with a swing. "Hillo!"—"Murder!"—

“Trim boat!”—“It’s all up!”—“Confound the bats!” such were the excited exclamations which followed a moment afterwards. I felt the boat careening over, and jolting fearfully; I heard the lanterns fall into the bottom of the boat, where they quickly yielded up their light, which told me of disorder, and of the other tenants of the craft being on a sharp look-out for *number one*, and if I felt at the moment a shadow of dismay, the feeling was pardonable. I soon found that the boat had landed on a sunken rock amid channel, and that the swell leaving her there, she was canting over in a manner very much calculated to relieve herself of our company. Next, that several dozen bats, alarmed by our uproarious presence, had left their holes, and which, now flying in our faces, added their disgusting contact to the general drawback of the adventure. I began to wish myself with the outsiders on the rock, and with a view to the gratification of that desire, I hauled on the friendly line, and had the satisfaction of feeling the boat right herself with the next swell, and surge a-head clear of the rock.

At that moment a wild and piercing cry re-

sounded through the cave, accompanied by shouts of "Man overboard!" There was much jerking and confusion astern; rapid and incoherent words were uttered, and there was a general stooping and holding down of lanterns; there was, too, a splashing like the movement of some heavy body in the water, from which, at one moment, a gurgling, rhinoceros-like sound rose up. I felt a chill creep over me. "They have him, sir, they have him!" was the cry from the boys, as I forced my way forward to see who was the unfortunate. And no sooner was it said than the dripping figure of the ship's purser was pulled over the side and lodged safely in the boat. He was almost insensible, so completely had he lost his presence of mind when he was canted overboard at the moment of the boat's heeling off the rock. We, however, hauled on the line quickly, and brought him into daylight and open air again, giving him a flask of brandy as a restorative, which served him well, for he soon recovered his breath and senses, although he continued very shaky. We thought it advisable to take him on board the ship at once, but as he recovered so rapidly and urged us to

continue our exploration while he remained on the rocks outside the cave, we backed in again, our party still numbering four, exclusive of the boys, the others remaining on the rocks to talk over our late adventure with the saturated purser, who was allowing himself to dry in the sun.

We now slackened the line with more confidence, and pulled the boat clear of the sunken rock with boat-hooks. No sooner were we inside of that than the party jumped on to one of the massive boulders of granite apparently composing the floor of the cave. Here we remained while the boat returned for the rest of the party, who, including the half-drowned purser, got in without difficulty, one of us already inside having remained on the boulder with a light to warn the second party as to the bearing of the sunken rock, which, being between the boulder and the entrance, was plainly visible as the swell broke over it in the light thus afforded.

Leaving one of the boys in the boat to keep her clear of the rocks, we now lighted our candles and commenced climbing over the boulders towards the centre of the rocky dome where we

could see the dim and uncertain outlines of a truncated cone, upon the top of which was perched something very much resembling a pointed pigeon-house. The climbing we found to be by no means delightful, owing as much to the number of crabs and bats we met, hand and foot, as to the rugged, slimy, and peculiar ground we had to rest upon. Nevertheless, we did climb. The cone proved to be an uneven mound, half rock, half clay, and the object surmounting it was a grotesquely-carved joss-house, within whose closed portals we discovered a finely-executed bronze casting of the Japanese sea god. A number of copper cash were scattered about his feet, and a gilded figure of a serpent circled his head, and threateningly reared its distended jaws before the eyes of the image.

Most of the party, with their customary want of consideration for the feelings of others, and the laws of Meum and Tuum, proposed bringing this joss away with them; but I am glad to say that their honesty prevailed over their desires on this occasion, as it would have been a disgraceful act of robbery and wanton outrage

against the Japanese. However, I am sorry to say that before they left the port they *did* plunder the cave of this decoration; but such acts were only in keeping with the general tone of boorish insult displayed by some of the American officers during their intercourse with the Japanese, and which has exercised a very injurious effect in prejudicing the government against them, and in fostering that prudent love of isolation which is the great characteristic of the nation.

While making our exit from this heathen temple, we observed that the archway leading to it was about a hundred yards long, and crooked, with a width of from five to ten yards, and an average height of about seventeen feet, while the water measured seven fathoms at the mouth, decreasing as it neared the rotunda.

## CHAPTER V.

ON the day following the adventure last narrated, I went ashore in company with the second lieutenant. The view was everywhere inviting. Before us stretched the town for three miles or more along the base of the promontory, whose three principal peaks pierced the clear atmosphere to the height of nearly a thousand feet. These summits were bare and rocky, while their upper slopes were but scantily clothed with vegetation. Below, however, where the mountains began to rise from the level land, a rich profusion of verdant shrub terminating in pine ridges above, and spreading cedars and cypress, stately maple,



and tall fruit-bearing trees below, and encroaching upon the town. The contrast between the bold and rugged heights and this luxuriant verdure, which also covered the base of a chain of rolling hills to the northward, was highly pleasing. Here reposed the town, almost secluded in solemn shades, while all around, far and high in the distance, was wild and massive.

The town, to the best of my calculation, contained about fifteen hundred houses, most of which were included in the one great thoroughfare, but a few hundred yards removed from the water side; the rest formed three less crowded streets, running at right angles with each other, and reaching to the base of the hills alluded to.

Hakodadi is the second largest town on the island of Jeddo, Matsmai being the first, from which it is distant about thirty miles in an easterly direction. A well-Macadamised road connects the two places, and runs parallel with the sea coast. The streets of Hakodadi are nearly forty feet in width, and are beautifully covered with small stones. On each side are open gutters to receive the drippings from the houses during wet weather, as also the washings

of the streets. Besides these, there are sewers of excellent construction, through which the surplus water and refuse are emptied into the bay. The paved sidewalks are curbed with stone planted on edge; but as wheeled carriages are not in common use in Japan in general, and Hakodadi in particular, the middle of the street is in dry weather used indiscriminately with the sidepaths by the pedestrian. Like all Japanese towns, it is kept remarkably clean, the construction of the streets being favourable to good drainage, while in dry weather they are almost constantly sprinkled and swept, so that their aspect is as uniformly neat, as their condition is healthful. Picket fences of cedar wood provided with gates cross the streets at short intervals; these are kept open during the day for the purposes of traffic, but closed at night. Here, of course, the same municipal laws prevail as in all the other towns of the empire, there being no local variations in the mode of government.

The inhabitants of the respective streets form each a separate community, responsible for the conduct of each other; they are each guarded

by an official who is held responsible for the good order of his prescribed district.

At the corner of each street stands a sentry-box, tenanted at night by a watchman, whose duty it is to give notice in the event of a fire, and otherwise attend to the public safety. A general quietude pervades the city without those signs of activity which characterize the streets and people of most other nations. Their commerce is conducted without noise, and their mode of transacting the ordinary affairs of life is as gentle as is their disposition.

Occasionally the quietude of the streets will be disturbed by a passing horse or cattle-boy, yelling to his laden animals, or by the officious attendant of some noble calling upon the people to clear the way for his master, while the sound of a bell, or the clanging of a hammer might be heard resounding from some neighbouring forge. Still the stranger is impressed with the idea of Hakodadi being a thriving town, when he sees these droves of freighted cattle slowly moving along its streets, and overlooks the harbour with its hundreds of high and stately junks and still more numerous boats, that are ever to be seen

gliding rapidly to and fro across the bay, and meets as he walks a numerous population of richly-dressed, two-sworded men of the most intellectual and graceful exterior, either as pedestrians or riding beautifully caparisoned horses.

The shops in Hakodadi, we observed, were numerous, and had their moveable fronts off during the day. The goods offered consisted principally of thick cotton, and inferior silks, earthenware and porcelain lacquered ware of all descriptions, from cups and saucers to writing-cabinets, chop sticks, cheap cutlery, and ready-made clothing. The provision-shops were abundantly supplied with rice, wheat, barley, pulse, dried fish, salt, sugar, sakee, soy, charcoal, sweet potatoes, flour, and cakes, but of what we call butchers' meat there was an entire absence, and of poultry a very small supply. Vegetables and a preparation of beans and rice-flour we saw hawked about the streets in baskets, slung over the back of a bullock, and these seemed to form a staple commodity in the diet of the people. Each shop had a sign painted or otherwise wrought over the doorway.

We experienced but little difficulty at this port in getting an ample supply of whatever provisions they had to offer.

On the morning of the third day after our arrival, I joined a survey party of fourteen in an armed launch belonging to the sloop, and under orders to follow the coast, and make soundings as far down as West point, about half way between Hakodadi and the city of Matsmai. We found it rather slow work, but pitched our tent very comfortably at nightfall some ten miles from our starting point, and at a spot where we remained undisturbed till the following morning, watched, however, by a batch of officials.

On the afternoon of the second day the survey was completed, and we moored our craft at the appointed destination. Here several officials paid us a visit, manifesting more curiosity, however, than dismay at our appearance. They made signs that they would like to see our rifles fired, so, in spite of the treaty, or rather one of the agreements thereto appended, we blazed away at sundry long-billed, red-legged birds, of the wild-duck species, which came tumbling down, two

or three at a time, so that we soon bagged sufficient for our wants.

We pitched our tent about three miles away from any visible habitation, and having some suspicion that as the Japanese were averse to our making surveys of their coast, we might be unpleasantly dealt with by them, or at least be disturbed in our slumbers, we kindled a large fire of driftwood, and placed one of the men, armed with dagger and revolver, on the watch, with orders to call certain of us, including the lately half-drowned purser, in the event of any arrivals. This fellow must have gone to sleep without loss of time, for, after the lapse of nearly three hours, several of us, who had not been yet able to fully resign ourselves to that state, suddenly heard the sound of distant voices, and on emerging from the tent, found our gallant guardian squatted on the ground, in a state of complete somnolency. Upon reaching the elevation of the bank, at the foot of which we had camped, and looking in the direction from which the voices came, a novel and beautiful sight presented itself before our astonished vision.

About fifty Japanese, each bearing one of the fancifully painted lanterns common to the country, were walking towards us at a rapid pace. Their movement was evidently not intended to be a secret one, so we took the opportunity of getting under arms before their approach. As they advanced, conversation was carried on amongst them in very loud tones. The moment that they caught view of us standing on the brow of the hill, a halt took place, and one of the party advanced alone, the rest following slowly in the rear. We were soon engaged in the most active pantomime, and from what we had acquired of their language at Simoda and the other two places, we ascertained, even without the aid of their unmistakeable signs, that the object of their unseasonable visit was to induce us to move away forthwith. We told them that it was impossible to put to sea before daylight. They said that we were transgressing the treaty by encroaching on prohibited territory, and that they would have to forfeit their heads for allowing us to remain. However, they moved off on our signifying that we would take our departure on the following morning ; and as they retraced

their steps in double file, their rank was swelled by another fifty, who emerged from out of the forest on either side of the hill, showing that we had been unconsciously surrounded by them.

But much as was the display of arms and powder on the part of the Japanese wherever we went, their timidity or peacefulness, or both, invariably caused them to shun hostilities. True to their promise, they returned at daybreak, and at a moment when their presence was much welcomed. The weather since midnight had become boisterous. The launch was gradually dragging in the heavy surf, and we had either to haul her up on the beach or put out into the bay. As, in addition, there was a heavy fog prevailing, we resolved upon the former line of procedure, and the Japanese arrived just in time to see twelve of us up to the neck in the surf, while the remaining two guarded the arms. Our most persuasive gestures failed in inducing them to take to the water; but they readily lent their assistance at the end of the boat's painter.

They now appeared quite reconciled to our stay, and the chief official laughed heartily when some one asked him as to the method he



had adopted in rejoining his head, for he in particular had assured us on the previous night of his certain decapitation on our account.

The launch being hauled up, we proceeded to breakfast ; one of the boys of the cave being of our party, and the deputed fire-lighter and general scout of the mess, and who had already arranged the necessary "fixings." We invited the Japanese to join us ; those of the two swords promptly thanked us, and accepted such by squatting themselves on the tent floor, while the rest lingered outside. They partook sparingly of our breakfast, and evinced their customary curiosity with regard to everything in our possession, praised the accuracy of our sketches, paid us the usual number of compliments, and finally expressed a wish that we would fire one of our rifles at some particular mark, birds excepted. We endeavoured to gratify them. One of the boat's crew was a really fine marksman, so a piece of drift-wood having been stuck up in the sand some hundred yards down the beach, a circle was chalked out upon it by the Japanese mandarin. The man fired and put a ball very near the centre of this circle, which seemed very

much to astonish the natives ; they attributed it to chance, and it required a repetition of the exploit to convince them of the general accuracy of the marksman. They remained with us for nearly two hours, making various signs on various subjects ; and we were all surprised to observe the amount of knowledge possessed by this evidently inferior class of officers with respect to affairs outside Japan.

They were familiar with the events of the Russian war, and fully acquainted with the reigning powers of Europe ; they spoke of the French army and the Emperor Napoleon, of the Queen of England, and Dutch Canals ; manifested an intimate knowledge of the affairs of China, and talked about American railways.

The greater part of this information had been gathered from the Dutch at Nagasaki ; but collateral news had been learned from the various English, American, and other vessels calling at their ports, and that by means of their interpreters.

All this developed to us more completely the enquiring nature of the Japanese mind, ever alive to and seeking after knowledge and novelty, and evidently endowed with the power and

intelligence to profit by every new idea and example afforded them. Yet, not vain, egotistical, nor pedantic withal, but peacefully working together for mutual good. Before taking leave of us, the two-sworded functionary in charge again renewed his request that we would return to Hakodadi immediately on the fog clearing away; upon this, the second lieutenant took up his rifle, and levelling it at the breast of the official, rushed forward with it so pointed till it came in disagreeably sharp contact with that portion of his body, and filled him with much reasonable indignation.

These tricks were very discreditable, and, as I before said, have been productive of much injury to Anglo-Saxon interests in Japan. The officials had only just left us, when a grotesque cavalcade, to the number of fifty or more men on horseback, suddenly presented themselves, and halted in our immediate neighbourhood. The members of the party who had spent the morning with us, sunk to their knees before one of the horsemen, who I observed was more gaily equipped, and sat on a more gorgeously caparisoned steed than his fellows, with the exception of the two-

sworded official, who in addressing him merely stooped, resting his hands on his thighs. There was a thick sprinkling of lacquered poles with gilded heads of strange device carried erect by the horsemen, and from these staffs were suspended streamers of various colours and shapes, which gave a gay and animated aspect to the entire troop.

While we were admiring the stranger, and the stranger seemed to be doing anything but that with regard to ourselves, a drove of horses came up, led by boys, and loaded with matchlocks, a pack on each side slung across the back. They were attached to the same party, and on their way to Hakodadi. The number of horses we had seen upon this island far exceeded that of Nipon, and our opinion as to their greater abundance in Jeddo, was corroborated by some of the natives questioned on the subject. In size and shape they in no way differed from those of the former island, being from fourteen to fifteen hands high, but compactly built, and mule-like in their powers of endurance. They were to be seen travelling along the beach, under their packs, in single file, and with the bridle of

one fastened to the saddle of another. In this manner one or two men can drive any number.

They are shod and unshod, as the nature of the road demands, with a socket of plaited grass, which lasts several days. Two hours after noon, the weather moderating and the fog lifting, we struck everything in haste, and retired into a small cove partially sheltered from the surf by sunken and other rocks, in which we dropped anchor, and awaited the arrival of the sloop to take us up. The latter, however, not appearing, we pitched our tent, and made arrangements for passing the night.

We had several visits from the officials, and many earnest requests to take our immediate departure for Hakodadi before the light of the following morning, when the sloop hove in sight and picked us up; we having in the meantime succeeded in so far pacifying them that no forcible measures were resorted to.

The sloop turned back, and again we were anchored beneath the frown of the Hakodadi mountains. Soon afterwards, a gondola-like boat was seen approaching from the shore, and very soon came alongside, when a

handsomely dressed two-sworded personage, preceded by about twenty of his attendants, actively ascended the ladder, followed by his interpreter, and came on board. The attendants sank on their knees and bowed their heads before him as he passed along the deck into the cabin. This personage was the chief secretary to the governor of Hakodadi, and had come to present a basket of fish from him to our captain, and with an invitation from the governor for the officers to visit him ashore on the day following. This information having been conveyed, the officials opened their pipe-cases and commenced smoking, but handing at the same time a similar case to each of us, in token of good will.

Tea was promptly prepared by us and handed round, when, after some conversation, and the exhibition on their part of some Japanese charts and maps of the world, with which world they exhibited an almost incredible familiarity, the party, with their usual politeness, tendered their compliments and returned to their boat, along which they threaded their way amongst the prostrate forms of about fifty attendants.

No sooner were they seated than they enveloped themselves in gaily-coloured waterproof coats of

the cambric-paper kind, in some cases covered with fine mats, as a protection against the spray. The invitation alluded to was, as a matter of course, accepted. The place and time of meeting was at the governor's temple, and noon. The morrow came. There were ten officers, each in uniform, besides the chaplain and myself, who were in plain clothes. On landing at the appointed wharf, we were immediately surrounded by a file of officials; when, all falling into procession, the Japanese distributing themselves at either end, we took our way through the streets in the direction of the temple. The thoroughfares were lined with single-sworded officers, behind whom several rows of men, women, and children were to be seen on their knees, all perfectly silent and orderly, and evidently taking pleasure in the array of cocked hats, epaulettes, and swords that was passing before them. We were attended by the drum and fife, which just now broke out into Yankee-doodle, to the evident delight of the population.

As we neared the destined edifice, the way was bordered by sheets of painted canvas, extending from tree to tree to which they were attached, and thus completely shutting out the

side view. On gaining the front of the temple, a row of thirty men were presented to us, ranged on either side of the courtyard. To the right, these men were equipped as arquebusiers, with their slow matches coiled; while on the left they were armed with halberts twenty feet long, the steel of both halbert and arquebus being alike covered with leathern cases, in conformity with the Japanese etiquette of never displaying naked weapons before friends. These soldiers were evidently picked men, being much above the average height, and were clothed in blue silk robes and red cotton trowsers, tightly fitting their large limbs, while on their heads were black japanned and broad-brimmed hats, in shape somewhat resembling those worn by the Chinese peasantry.

At the steps of the temple we were received by several high and shoeless dignitaries, and conducted by them over matted floors, through galleries lined by officials, and adorned with richly-painted screens and tapestry, into a room whose walls and ceiling were covered with gilding and other decorations, chiefly in red, so, as to completely hide the cedar-wood of which it



was built. The windows, or rather doors— they answered both purposes — of this room opened on to a verandah, and overlooked a garden, gay with blossom and bright with verdure. At the back of the room there was a long, unoccupied form, covered with a cotton fabric of various colours, bright and blending into each other like the hues of the rainbow, and in front another form of the like description, with a detached seat at the extreme end. Almost simultaneously with our entrance, the governor, the chief secretary, the commander of the port, and eight other two-sworded officials, made their appearance through the opened doors fronting the garden, and ranged themselves before us; they then bowed, at the same time pressing the knuckles of their closed hands together on their breasts, the ordinary form of a Japanese salutation; after this, they motioned us to sit down on the bench facing them, which being done, they followed suit on the other bench. In front of the detached seat alluded to, two interpreters assumed a kneeling position, while behind it, a set of officials, evidently of inferior rank, assumed similar postures.

An impressive silence pervaded the room from the moment we were seated, which lasted till moments had passed into minutes. It was broken by low whispers of hish—hish—hish, uttered along the outer galleries and verandah. The kneelers bowed their heads, and the superiors bent forward on their seats. A pause! Amidst the most profound silence, a sword-bearer, with weapon reversed and uplifted, entered the room, followed by a tall and slender personage of proud but pleasing look and carriage, and of a light tawny complexion. This was the Governor. He was dressed like the other two-sworded officials, and alike shoeless, merely wearing the glove-like stockings common amongst the higher classes. He at once advanced, while we all rose to receive him, and, with great dignity of bearing and courteousness of manner, stopped slowly in front of each officer and bowed to them in succession, after which he repeated the ceremony to his own officials, and turned to the seat where knelt the interpreters, waving us to our seats as he sat down.

The intense stillness was broken by a whisper from the Governor to the kneeling chief interpreter before him, who listened with downcast

eyes in his prostrate position, and without lifting his gaze, uttered faint and whispering assents to each sentence spoken by the Governor. The second interpreter, who was to communicate to us, then leant forward and listened to the whispered message which emanated from the ever down-bent lips of the chief interpreter, after which he leant in the opposite direction to within a few inches of the ear of our Commander, to whom, in murmurs which gradually assumed conversational tones, and which I distinctly overheard, he conveyed in English the Governor's respects to the President of the United States.

The Commander's respects to the Emperor of Japan were conveyed by the same quiet process into the ear of the Governor. Each succeeding message, which was of similar import, was transmitted in the same scarcely audible tone, yet every word that passed was taken down in writing by the secretary, who was on his knees beside the Governor.

One of the two-sworded officials now touched a small silver handle jutting out of the wall, immediately behind, upon which a single metallic tinging was heard coming from the outer passage.

This was instantly followed by the entrance of a train of inferior officers, each bearing a lacquered tray, containing a long bamboo-stemmed pipe, with a very small silver bowl, a little box of the finest lacquer material, filled with light-coloured and finely powdered tobacco, and a small gold dish in which prepared charcoal was burning. A tray was allotted to each of us, and placed on low stools, previously arranged in front of the bench, and which the Yankees had supposed to be intended for their boots to rest upon, in testimony of which they had extended their legs in that direction. The same ceremony took place along the opposite bench, where sat the Japanese. The first to fill and light his pipe was the Governor, who motioned to us to follow suit, which we at once responded to.

We all, Japanese and Anglo-Saxon, smoked in silence ; and when the former had smoked their first bowl, the Governor again addressed his interpreter. Messages and compliments were again circulated, chiefly enquiries from the Governor as to the extent of the army and navy of the United States ; the extent of their shipping generally, and the proportion of sailing

vessels to the number of steamers annually built, and as to the countries with which they chiefly traded. He also spoke of the greatness of the English nation, and the resemblance of the Americans to the British people who had come to Japan; of the recent peace in Europe between the Russians and the allied powers. From the form in which these queries and observations were made, it was evident that the Governor knew almost as much about the world generally, and apprehended ideas of the system and working of nations, both socially and politically, just as accurately as any one of us did respecting countries in which we had never been, but with which report had made us familiar. Another signal was given, and another train of male domestics entered the room, each bearing a tray, on which was a teacup of the finest and almost transparent china, or of beautiful red lacquer; the attendants knelt as they deposited them on the stools ranged in front of the benches, taking away the pipe tray as they did so. Vases of tea, at a boiling point, as also various kinds of confectionery, preserves, oranges, and other fruits, immediately followed, and were handed to us by kneeling attendants, one in

front of each officer, Japanese and American. We all ate and drank.

Two more messages were sent by the Governor, enquiring as to our ship, her usual speed, and whether the majority of us were married or single ; to all of which the Captain replied to the evident satisfaction of his host. The latter now sent a final message expressive of the pleasure he felt in being honoured by our visit, and requesting us to excuse his retiring. Then rising, while the whole of the other Japanese knelt low, he bowed to the Captain, and repeated the same to each of us individually, after which, preceded by the whispered "hish—hish—hish," and by the sword-bearer with the weapon reversed, and followed by his secretaries and a numerous suite, who had just before entered the room, he retired. The Lieutenant-Governor still remained. As soon as the steps of the Governor's attendants became inaudible, we were escorted down the same passage to the outer steps of the temple, where we bowed our adieux, the Japanese bending low, with clasped hands, and pressing their knuckles together against their breasts as usual. The streets were lined with police, and

crowded by the kneeling population as at the time of our arrival, while the same silence and order everywhere pervaded their ranks. We marched as before, in procession, to the landing place, and the boats being in waiting, made direct for the ship. That afternoon, at about sunset, the chief secretary's boat was seen approaching from the shore, and soon afterwards its noble occupant was ascending the ship's ladder, preceded and followed by his fifty attendants, as usual on such occasions. He was magnificently arrayed in a dress of a delicate rose-pink colour, with silk stockings and sandals of some peculiar fibrous manufacture, trimmed with silken cord. He had on a broader-brimmed hat than before; it was violet-coloured, and of the finest lacquer, with a bright red crown, the latter being of small circumference.

The object of his visit was to invite the captain and officers to witness a wrestling match, which was to take place at two o'clock, on the day following, in the grounds of the Prince's palace. We accepted with all readiness. Our visitor informed us that the wrestlers in question were in the pay and service of one of the princes

of Jeddo, and that they were always retained at Hakodadi, for his amusement, during an annual residence of six weeks in that town, on his official mission.

The august visitor having smoked a pipe of his fragrant tobacco, in which ceremony we politely bore him company, he left the cabin through a lane of kneeling attendants, and descending the ladder, followed by the latter, who rose one by one as he passed them, he entered his boat, surrounded by another kneeling throng, who, however, all rose on his seating himself, and sixteen of them forthwith commenced working their sculls in the most admirable manner astern, and commanding the movements of the boat with the utmost ease and exactness. A sail was spread, the officer's banner was hoisted, and the boat fled like an arrow to the terrace of stone steps forming the common landing-place for light craft.

On the next day, at one o'clock, we left the ship, to the number of twelve, in the captain's gig and the dingy. The bay was calm as a millpond, and blue as the sky which it reflected. The atmosphere was light, clear, and invigora-



ting, but hot, and the sun blazed out in vivifying grandeur, which lighted up the verdure of the mountains, and revealed in beauty of many shades the indentations on their rocky breasts. Trees before lost in distant shade, now stood out with a singleness peculiar only to a highly ambient and rarified atmosphere. A long cloud of smoke from a distant volcanic cone, blue as indigo, wreathed into feathery, fantastic figures, stretched with wonderful distinctness against the clear sky, while the expanse of foliage extending towards us from the foot of some westward hills clearly pencilled to the view, but far away, sparkled in the splendour of the day, and seemed as though inviting us to enter their delicious shades. As we rowed over the glittering waters suffused with the glowing brightness of prevailing space, we caught view of the rugged edges of the mountain peaks exposed against the flashing sky, and more and more we admired the varied scenery, and participated in the rosy gladness of the earth—in the riant beauty of the festive day.

At the steps we landed, from which we were escorted by a bevy of officers and soldiers, all of whom, according to right and custom,

wore two swords, to the appointed temple, in whose ground the wrestlers were to wrestle. I had previously witnessed a bull-fight at Madrid, and the sort of interest which I felt on the present occasion was not unlike that which then actuated me. I had since witnessed bull fights at Lima, and in other parts of South America; and although, in the course of these exhibitions, I was the spectator of much brutal torture, I had not experienced any change in my own feelings, disposition, or treatment towards the brute creation, and therefore remained unaffected by their influence. So with regard to the wrestling: next to a prize-fight, I considered it the most unintellectual of amusements, and by no means calculated to lift the human mind above the human animal; yet I knew that the sight of the performance would fill me with no desire to wrestle also, and that, to use common language, I should be none the worse for it.

I have been often the witness of strange and diverse scenes, and sought adventure where prudence would have held me back, but I never found that my association with the world at large, and its medley of life and character, prejudiced

me in favour of wrong, or vice, or infamy, or narrowed my views of men and things; on the contrary, my freedom of action induced a wideness of view, and a just liberality of judgment and opinion, which is free of all class prejudice; for the more a man mingles with the crowd and buffets his way across the world, the more true, comprehensive, generous, and enlightened are the views which that man takes of things individually and collectively, the less, in fact, is he shackled by conventionality or dogmatic error.

We passed the portals of the palace, and ascending a few marble steps, wound our way along two passages, preceded by our official guides, into a spacious hall, covered over with the soft, straw-coloured matting everywhere found in the houses of both high and low, with a mere variation of quality. Here the wrestlers were in waiting, arrayed in robes of richly-figured silk.

So immense were they all in flesh, that they had almost lost their distinctive features. Their eyes were sunk in a long perspective of socket, the prominence of their noses was lost in the puffiness of their bloated cheeks, and their heads

were almost set directly on their bodies, with merely folds of flesh to denote the neck and chin. Their great size, too, was owing more to the development of muscle than to the deposition of fat ; for although they were evidently well-fed, they were not less well exercised, and capable of great feats of strength. A doorway led from this hall to the outer grounds, where a circular space, about fifteen feet in diameter, had been enclosed for the wrestling. The spectators occupied benches, rising amphitheatre-like, in tiers, on three sides of the ring. As soon as all were seated, the Governor appeared, attended by a numerous suite, and the fat fellows, about thirty in number, entered the arena. They were now naked, with the exception of a narrow girdle of yellow gossamer around the loins.

The gross number being equally divided into two opposing parties, they tramped heavily backward and forward, with a defiant air. The object of this was to parade their points, and give the spectators an opportunity of forming an estimate of their comparative powers. Very soon they retired en masse behind some appointed screens, and all, save two, reappeared in their

richly adorned robes, which were of the ordinary Japanese fashion, and took their apportioned seats outside the ring.

At a signal from the herald, who was seated in his divan, together with a deputy, the two reserved, the one following the other, walked forward into the ring with slow elephantine and deliberate step. They there faced each other, at the distance of a few yards. Crouching, they eyed each other with a savage earnestness, which more belonged to the mere animal than the man ; each was watching for a chance to catch his adversary off his guard. This continued for some minutes, by which time they had impatiently begun to stamp the ground, and paw the soil up with their hands, flinging it in anger over their backs, or rubbing it, as if in rage, between their huge palms. Suddenly, and in an instant, they simultaneously heaved forward their massive forms in opposing force, with a shock and sound not unlike that of a heaving sea against the hull of a sailing ship. Still their equilibrium was hardly disturbed, and a quiver of their hanging flesh was the only perceptible effect of the concussion. In a desperate struggle the brawny

arms of each were now firmly grasping his adversary's body, and they were closely entwined in what, so far as appearances were concerned, promised to be a fatal fray, but which was only a battle of enormous strength, where a simple downfall was victory. Their muscles rose with the distinct outline peculiar to a colossal Hercules. Their bloated countenances swelled up with gushes of blood, which seemed ready to burst through the skin of their reddened faces, and their huge bodies palpitated with emotion, as the struggle continued. Finally, one of the antagonists fell heavily, and being so vanquished, he was assisted to his feet by one of the heralds, and escorted from the ring. Immediately two of the other wrestlers retired behind the screens, where they stripped, and at a given signal one of them emerged quickly, and with the same heavy step.

In an instant he took his place in the arena, and assumed an attitude of defence; the body being bent forward, and the head lowered, and one leg placed in advance of the other. No sooner was this done than the other rushed out of his hiding-place, uttering bellowing cries as he came, and dashing at full force with body



KINAHAN CORNWALLIS DEL.

STANNARD & HIXON, LITH

THE GOVERNOR OF HAKODADI & SUITE  
WHILE WITNESSING THE WRESTLING MATCH.







thrust forward, and lowered head, against the head and neck of his adversary. The shock was borne with unflinching steadiness, and a power of resistance almost incredible; but the blood streamed down the face of the one acting on the defensive, from a bruise which he had received over the left temple. Again and again, with variations, was this ceremony repeated, and in quick succession, till the one on the aggressive side was at length overthrown by a bodily lift and side shove from his opponent. Two by two the others passed behind the screen, and were alike summoned to the encounter. Some of my friends the Yankees looked on with unwearied delight from the commencement to the termination of the exhibition, during which time we were twice served with pipes and tea, and all were, to speak colloquially, pretty much taken with the style of the performance. The Governor retired at the conclusion, with many bows to us, from the place where he had sat, but no messages whatever passed between him and the officers of the sloop.

We were now escorted by some of the Japanese officers of state, including the chief secretary, to

the porch of the temple, when, bows having been exchanged, we took our way to the landing steps, preceded and followed by a *garde d'honneur* consisting of about fifty Japanese soldiers clad in blue and white silk, lacquered hats, and straw sandals. It was sunset; the rainbow hues of the western sky were shooting athwart the bay as we were rowed swiftly over its placid breast; the smoke from the volcanic cone was no longer discernible; the last sounds of the hammer from the junk-building yards were faintly heard; hundreds of boats and junks lay moored along the beach; a few were to be seen dotting in various directions the silent water; rich and resplendent were the dyes of the dying day, and grand, magnificent, and sublime was the aspect of the surrounding scenery. I had witnessed more gorgeous sunsets from the mountains of Honduras, and one in particular from a hill overlooking Lake Nicaragua, but I never beheld one more divine and beautiful in its pervading influence and effect than this, which ushered in the night of the sixth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-six.

## CHAPTER VI.

THE day next succeeding being our last at Hakodadi, I went on shore early, accompanied by the second lieutenant, with the view of seeing whatever we had not had the opportunity to see, or neglected seeing before. Our first visit was devoted to a large Buddhist temple called the Ziogoonzi, and certainly the most beautiful specimen of Japanese architecture I had as yet seen.

The tiled roof rose about sixty feet from the ground, and was supported by an intricate arrangement of girders, posts, and tie beams, resting upon large lacquered pillars. The ground apartment was capacious, elaborately carved, and

richly ornamented with figures of gold, silver, and burnished brass; the gilding of the walls and cornices was also tasteful and superb. The arrangements, altogether, were more costly than those of the Sintoo temple at Simoda; but such is commonly the case with regard to the Buddhist temples, which are more numerous, populous, and wealthy, than the declining Sintoos. The carving and sculpture about the altar, the niches and cornices, were of wood and brass, and of exquisitely skilful workmanship. The designs were chiefly dragons, cranes, tortoises, and representations of their many idols. The main floor was elevated six feet above the ground, being reached by stone steps, and covered with the usual thick and soft mats. There were three separate shrines, each containing an image, the one in the nave being the largest and most chastely ornamented.

A kind of architrave descended between the pillars, so contrived that, with the aid of folding screens, the shrines were capable of being readily partitioned off. There were six priests attached to this temple, and their apartments for cleanliness and neatness could not have been excelled.

Leaving this and ascending the street, I came to another, but smaller, temple, dedicated to Buddha, and devoted to his worshippers. It was situated on the edge of a plateau overlooking the town, a hundred feet or so above the sea level. It was a wooden building, with fantastic figures carved and gilded on every pillar, cornice, and girder. Native birds of every variety of plumage, and the heads of animals, real and mythological, were depicted in lacquer work on the panels. In front of the altar stood the large calabash-like jars peculiar to the country, some of gold, some of silver, some of bronze, in which stood either votive sticks of a fragrant compound, or burning tapers made of twisted and prepared paper. Daylight only entered the sombre edifice by the verandahs at the rear and front; and as the wooden pillars and beams were dark and polished, an air of profound solemnity pervaded its precincts, which were wrapped in a gloomy silence, that even our presence and footsteps—noiseless, however, over the deep matting—failed to disturb.

At one corner of the main street, which runs nearest the shore, stands the temple of the

Konozee or Dragon. It is of large size, and beautifully situated in an inclosure, shaded with willows, cypress, and fir of lofty growth. Entering this enclosure through a pair of majestic stone portals, tastefully sculptured, we made our way along an avenue, flanked with candelabra of greenstone, and ascending a few steps of white marble, gained the porch. The figure of a large dragon, carved along the entablature, first attracted observation ; there was also a carp fish, some six feet in length, elaborately carved out of wood, extending in an upright direction on the right side of the porch. Service was going forward here at the time of our visit, and an attendant forbade our entrance. This information allowed and suggested to us the alternative of walking down again, which, after the exchange of a blank glance or two, we adopted. We, however, strolled within the grounds, where we admired the elaborately ornamented architecture of the temple itself, now somewhat crumbling in the lap of age, and examined the stone statues, the candelabras, the isolated shrines, and the richly chiselled and

skilfully designed gateways leading to the burial ground in the rear.

Taking our way hence along a street running at right angles with the main street, we reached the base of the hills, which we ascended, and followed for the length of a couple of miles. During this time we met with several niches and small shrines, under the shadow of cypress groves; as also numerous stone statues of Buddha, old and weather-worn, from four to five feet in height, elevated upon small pedestals, and much overgrown with moss, which it would have been considered sacrilege to disturb. Offerings of copper cash, flowers, written papers, and small pieces of silk, were more or less to be found in front of each of these shrines and statues, deposited by recent worshippers. The Japanese frequently resort to these roadside deities, which they appear to hold in great veneration. In one instance we passed a stone slab covered with Japanese characters, and surmounted by an archway of fancily-carved and ornamented wood. Passers-by invariably kneel for a moment in front of these sacred spots, and pray with a devoutness scarcely to be equalled by the sons and

daughters of old Castile. We looked into one or two bathing-places on our way back, but our modesty prevented the stark-naked company present from enjoying the pleasure of our company under similar auspices, so we left them, my companion hiding his blushes as he went.

Speaking of the military defences of Hakodadi, there is little show of fortifications about it, although from its commanding position it is capable of being rendered impregnable. Beyond the town, to the eastward, there are two earthen forts dug out of the ground, and intended to guard the entrance to the harbour. Palisades are driven in along the excavations, to prevent the earth from caving in, and to aid in the defence. Two wooden buildings stand near it, one of which is fitted with an observatory, the telescopes being of bamboo tubes, furnished, however, with glasses of immense power. From each of these structures access is obtained to the magazines underneath the excavated area of the forts. Inside each of the fortifications is a pavement of stone, and embrasures of four feet in width, opening in the eastern embankment,



seaward, and apparently only intended for two guns.

On the beach, at the eastern end of the main street, is a solid stone edifice, held by the military, but pointing no guns, although capable of being used as a fort. But, beyond these places, there are no fortifications within the harbour.

Early on the following morning, the sloop having on board two hundred tons of native coal, and other presents, we weighed anchor and steamed slowly to the northward, leaving behind, half hidden in a prevailing mist, the bold and rugged mountains, the fertile valleys, and the thickly foliaged hills and plains which give fame to Jesso and beauty to Hakodadi.

## CHAPTER VII.

MATSMAI is an imperial city, of considerable extent and imposing appearance. It is situated under the west point of the roadstead, and extends along the beach more than two miles in an easterly direction, having its southern side washed by the surf, and retreating to the northward some half mile back among the hills. The city is built upon undulating ground, presenting a series of hills, whose summits, studded with green and stately trees, enhance the varied beauty of the view, and contrast pleasingly with the surrounding architecture of house and temple which covers the declivities.

It is upon these hills and undulations that the government buildings and residences of the higher class are situated, and surrounded by regularly laid-out grounds, groves of shade trees, and highly-cultivated gardens. There was one large pagoda-like structure, in particular, which, with its grounds, occupied the whole of the highest hill, and, from its imposing elevation, and the view of the harbour thereby commanded, would have made an admirable signal station. There it stood upon the very summit, and in the centre of a beautiful greensward, sprinkled here and there with beech and cedar trees, forming shady groves, and extended within the circumference of about a mile, until a white paling fence, circling the base of the hill, seemed to limit its extent. This, I subsequently ascertained, was the residence of the governor.

In addition, I counted four very conspicuous temples or Joss-houses of large size, each having its grounds and groves, and neat paling fence, and occupying an elevated position.

All this was observed from the deck of the sloop, as she steamed slowly past, and continued on her journey to the northward. In running along

the coast, we were all struck with the beautiful perfection and great extent of the cultivation. From the base to the very summits of the hills and mountains, every acre of ground was terraced and planted with grain, while innumerable towns and villages were to be seen crowding in all directions the fertile slopes and valleys.

Rice, wheat, barley, and sweet potatoes are the chief articles of agricultural produce; but buckwheat, Indian corn, taro, beans, cabbages, cresses, and egg plants, are also extensively cultivated. The wheat and barley are reaped in May, and the rice, which is first sown and then transplanted, is ready for the latter operation in the month of June. As an illustration of their economy of soil, I may mention that during the winter, portions of the rice lands, *i. e.* the terraces or elevated grounds, are turned into wheat fields. In preparing the land for the reception of the young shoots of rice, they are overflowed with water, and then reduced by ploughing and harrowing into a soft, well-mixed mud. Subsequently, a substratum of grass and underwood is trodden down below the surface by the labourers, to whose feet broad pieces of wood are

attached, not unlike snow shoes. The small plants now transferred from the sowing grounds arrive at maturity, and are harvested by the end of September. Horses and horned cattle are occasionally used in the performance of agricultural labour, but in general the whole of such is done by men.

A little after sunset, we found a safe anchorage in a small bay or indentation where the country was hilly, and thickly timbered down to the very beach, on the southern extremity of which a small fishing village, about the fiftieth we had observed during the day, was pleasantly located. Early on the following morning, I went ashore to examine the flora of the place. I shall not allow the reader to feel ennui by entering into its detail in the course of my narrative, as the system of Linnæus, and a list of my botanical collections, might here prove as dry as are the collections in my herbarium. Suffice it to say that arborescent mimosas bordered the beach, and that oaks, firs, cedars and poplars, yew, cypress, birch, lime, aspen, ash, and maple were plentiful.

I am but an amateur botanist ;—yet I know something about exogens and endogens, and the consecutive layers in a round of oak ;—I know

that the latter tree belongs to the former class that plants are botanically designated by very hard Latin names, and that the orders into which the system is divided are known by harder names still, as if for the especial purpose of puzzling humanity at large, and driving the chemists mad; and I also know that monkshood very much resembles horse-radish, for which reason I usually avoid partaking of the scraped remains of the alleged latter root; and for this additional reason, that my late friend P—— Q—— —his name is to be found on his tombstone—was accidentally poisoned some years back, in the middle of a roast-beef dinner, through eating *horse-radish*. (?)

Well, I have said that I am so far a botanist, though it will be seen I am not redundant in forcing upon the reader the technicalities common to the anatomist skilled in a knowledge of the vegetable world. I am slightly discursive, but in a country ramble it is frequently refreshing to diverge from the common highway, and change the direction of our gaze. So it is with myself and my book. I feel pleasure in thus turning aside to hold a little quiet conversation with

thee, my companion, O Reader! and, although it is popularly supposed that what is written for pleasure proves itself in general to be anything but a pleasure to read, I trust it may not prove so in the present case. However, to the shore.

I have said that I landed with a botanical object in view, which was the case, and that in a double sense; for the boat grounded immediately in front of a spreading fig-tree, covered with unripe fruit, some of which I took the opportunity of pocketing, and with the intention of preserving, but not, ladies, be it understood, in the way of jam; no, nothing half so crushing; while of course the main object of my trip was the search after vegetables in general. Covent Garden Market presents itself as I write this. Visions of costermongers appear; but let me never be confounded with them; I am not half so noisy.

A few minutes' walk through the silent glades brought me to the foot of a range of thinly-timbered hills, up which I proceeded at a rapid walk, for the purpose of witnessing the sunrise, which promised to be a brilliant one.


The sun was just gilding the eastern horizon.

The view was an expanse of undulating woods, intersected by hill and mountain ranges, and among which, in the foreground, a winding river like a silver thread diversified the picture. A streak of cloud, which had just glittered over the rim of the mountains, now melted away before the bursting light of the ascending sun. The sky was a mighty vault of unchequered blue, so clear that the eye almost ached in surveying its vastness. A cool air, fresh from the mountain slopes, gently rustled the leaves around me; but beyond, all was holy as the virgin light of the morn—silent and motionless as the pervading blue.

Now in upward flight the bright wings of the morning were spread awide. Rich, vivid, and inspiring lights were fast crowning the hills. Up then came the sun in all his splendour, and with magical effect bathed the landscape in a flood of beams and beauty, tinting the mountains with brilliant grandeur, and giving life and lustre to the sea of green. Descending to the table-land by an opposite route to the one by which I had come, my path was intersected by a ravine, into which a small stream of water



emptied its gurgling treasures in a diminutive cascade. Nothing could equal the exhilarating sensations which I felt as I imbibed the pure and refreshing air, and feasted my contemplative gaze on the scenery that everywhere met my view on this the only morning on which I ever witnessed a sunrise in Japan. But that morning scene is indelibly engraven on the tablet of my memory, and delightful is the prospect which it still affords.



As I took my way over a green and compact turf, sprinkled with cedar trees, stooping here and there to examine as I went, I turned into a small thicket of bamboo. Suddenly I beheld what caused me to revert from Linnæus to Buffon in an instant. It was a badger-coloured wolf in the act of munching a full-grown hare. Well, thought I, this is a treat that Buffon never enjoyed at this hour in the morning, for I was familiar with the fact of his having been an incorrigibly late riser, and that for years he paid a man to arouse him and pull the clothes off his bed at a certain hour every morning, which ceremony at length failing to produce the desired effect, he raised his salary, in consideration

of the additional duty of thrashing him out of bed with a birch rod, the payment to be conditional on his gaining that end. Here I have said my thoughts were turned from Japanese botany to Japanese zoology in a moment. I was alone. The brute saw me, and with one paw half lifted over the mangled carcase of his prey, he eyed me with a look of savage displeasure and curiosity, while doubt and fear were expressed in the twitching of his ears and the movement of his muscles.

Levelling my revolver—it was but the work of a second—I took steady aim. Simultaneously the ears pricked up, the eyes flashed, the jaws were tightened, the paw was withdrawn from the carcase, and the animal prepared to retreat. At that instant a bullet pierced his head a little above the left nostril, and the forest rang with a howling yell of agony, which it pained me to hear. The vague sense of torment expressed in the imaginative line,

“Let hell’s wild hisses agonise his brain,”

was vastly intensified and increased in this rending cry of the wounded wolf, and seeing that he

was still alive, and hearing at the same time another of his demoniacal appeals to universal nature, I fired again through the bush into which he had crept. There was a little snarl, and out sprang the animal with burning eyes and gnashing teeth ; he faltered after the first step, when I fired again, hitting him in the neck, upon which he fell with his head thrown back, and died the same moment. He measured three feet six inches from the snout to the extremity of the tail, and in shape somewhat resembled a Norwegian dog. Returning to the boat, I got one of the blue-shirted boys to accompany me to the spot where he lay, and carrying him head and tail, the carcass was soon deposited at the bottom of the dingy. I subsequently ascertained that these animals were scarce, and perfectly harmless when unmolested. He is now the stuffed occupant of a glass case in a museum at Washington.

On reaching the sloop I found two of the smaller class of Japanese boats alongside, each paddled by two swordless individuals ; they had been induced, only after much invitation and persuasive gesture, to come near the vessel ;

they were in evident fear, and mistaking the signs of welcome as applications for a few shell-fish which they had in the bottoms of their boats, they readily passed them on board, accepting a few trifling articles, *i.e.* a tooth-brush, one kid glove, and a wooden nutmeg of Yankee manufacture, from three respective individuals in return; to these I added half-a-dozen religious tracts, and a copy of the New Testament in the English language, each of which appeared to afford them much gratification. Of course I knew that giving these things to the Japanese was equivalent to casting pearls before swine, so far as any hope of their ever converting them to Christianity was concerned; but then I did not wish to bring about the remotest shadow of such a result, as I am not egotist enough to believe that my own faith is better than theirs; sense and conscience alike proclaim that it is the worst action of the stronger towards the weaker to disturb the order of their religion. Nothing but egotism could prompt the attempt at conversion; nothing could be more uncharitable than to do so. The more that the stronger nation strives to change the dispen-

sations of a foreign community placed within its power, the more rapid is the downfall of the latter, and direfully calamitous are its results.

The next thing presented was a packet containing two cakes of fancy soap, which were lowered into the boat to them. As I expected, and as it appeared the donor did also, each of the Japanese took a cake in their hands and—laughter—commenced eating them. The wry-est of faces succeeded the first bite, and roars of merriment resounded along the deck. To see a Japanese eating toilet soap was an entire novelty.

The Japanese manifested displeasure on hearing the laughter; but they said nothing, and placed the soap with the other trifles under the stern, having evidently come to the conclusion that they were things not intended to be eaten, or else that we had played a practical and perhaps poisonous joke upon them. A few minutes afterwards, another boat came alongside, also occupied by two men, scullers; one of whom, a single-sworded officer, gesticulated to the men in the other boats, beckoning them authoritatively away from the ship. They obeyed;

their paddles were taken possession of by those of the third boat, who took the other two in tow, and steered for the shore.

It was evident that the eaters of the toilet soap had committed an almost treasonable error in holding such familiar intercourse with us. Soon after this, we resumed our course along shore, passing by the rugged and the picturesque, and anchoring at nightfall in front of another, but larger village than that last mentioned. An hour after dark—two hours and a half before midnight—a boat came alongside, sculled by two men, one of whom, from his silks and lacquered hat, we judged to be an officer of some kind, although it was evident that he was not of much rank, from the fact of his wearing no sword. He came over the side fanning himself in an easy lounging manner, quite new in a Japanese, and the captain being on deck, several of us accompanied him into the cabin with the visitant.

On the door being shut he manifested some uneasiness ; but on seeing a decanter and glasses put on the table, he regained his self-possessed composure. His first act was to produce from

some recess in his capacious dressing-gown-like garment a bundle of lacquered cups and saucers, which he presented to the captain, at the same time signifying, by unmistakeable indications, his wish to enjoy the ownership of one of the glasses in return. Here was something to laugh at; it almost amounted to a stipulation on his part. We did laugh; upon observing which, he evidently felt annoyed. His companion at this juncture came down, and he also displayed a similar partiality to that of his fellow for glass ware. A tumbler each was then held out to them, from which, however, they shrank with gestures almost of horror, and holding up the right thumb, intimated that to accept was death. It was against the laws of Nipon—in speaking of their own country this was the invariable term and pronunciation—to receive the wares or money of foreigners unless in an official capacity, as, for instance, at the Simoda bazaar. Notwithstanding this, in less than half a minute afterwards they each possessed themselves of the tendered glass. This they achieved by a hasty seizure and concealment with half averted heads. They then partook of some gin-and-water, help-

ing themselves to a moderate quantity of both, after which they took their departure.

Taking my way on shore in company with several others on the morning following, I observed numerous deerskins stretched against the sides of the inferior houses, in the process of drying. On inquiry, the people made signs that the dense cane brake which backed the town was full of them, and that we might shoot as many as we chose. Accordingly, we repaired to the bamboo grove. We had hardly entered it, when the heads of two or three were revealed and as suddenly hidden, while right and left the dense thicket rustled and shook with their rushing numbers.

But as for the chance of shooting them, it was very small, so dense and high was the jungle, so quick and on the alert were the deer. We soon turned aside, and climbed a small grass-grown eminence, which commanded an extensive sweep of country, which was hemmed in to the eastward by a high range of rolling hills, over whose verdant slopes we caught view of immense herds of these graceful animals, and involuntarily longed for a day's sport in that



region, in spite of my humanity of soul, and being a member of the body general for the prevention of cruelty to animals. But we had only an hour to remain ashore, so the wish was vain. Determined, if possible, to have at least a shot at the deer, I persuaded my companions to re-enter the cane thicket. Again there was a rushing of many feet, but no sight of the animals. I cautiously led the passage with my revolver levelled for action ; a rifle here would have been in the way. We threaded our course through the cane brake, but without success, and had entered a cedar grove, when, turning towards a copse some twenty yards removed, my eyes suddenly met those of a beautiful young buck, standing erect and gazing with silent wonder upon our movements.

Without uttering a word to my companions, who as yet were unconscious of the presence of game, I brought down my revolver with steady aim and fired. The sharp ring of the report startled the rest of the party, who had not observed the incident, but in a moment they were all rushing pell mell in the direction of the shot, for the animal had disappeared in the woods at

the instant of my firing. Yet I was certain that he had been hit. In a few moments, during which I leisurely followed, their shouts told me that the bullet had done its work, and on examination I found that it had pierced the left eye near the nostril. Two of us now took up our prize and made for the boat. Rounding the thickly-wooded slope of a neighbouring hill, we emerged, after a quarter of an hour's walk, into an open space carpeted with grass and low tangled vines, and where the roar of the surf upon the outer beach broke like voices through the forest.

Another quarter of an hour, passed in scrambling among briars and thickets, brought us to the ocean, whose waters were now tumbling in with long, regular swells. Looking far across it in the direction and beyond a clearly-marked promontory, we traced the distant outline of a volcano, its rugged sides bristling against the sky, and its snow-capped summit sparkling in the sunlight. A little further on an intervening ledge of rock compelled us to leave the white sandy beach and make a detour through the woods to the eastward. This proved rather

fatiguing for those who carried the deer, but as there were five of us, we were able to relieve each other. Our toil was, however, well rewarded when we caught view of a beautiful rivulet flowing between two high hills, wooded with maple and beech to their tops, and where from out the ledges of a narrow pass it leapt noisily down in a beautiful cascade, and in a succession of rapids, sparkling and foaming as they went, threw itself into the ocean. We again gained the clean and sandy beach, where a margin of wide-spreading trees with sunlit foliage, talking faintly in the gentle breeze, and tenanted by here and there a bird, whose brilliant plumage contrasted with the vivid green of the surrounding vegetation, conspired with the sparkle of the rapids, just visible above, to enhance the varied beauty of the scene, and invite the wanderer to linger long within their clime.

Following the indentation in the coast, we were soon abreast of our boat, and quickly our blue-shirted boys paddled us off to the sloop, whose steam we could see was already up. I may here mention that our fuel was almost

entirely wood, an abundance of which, cut into small solid blocks, we had obtained at Simoda and Hakodadi, and for which the government refused to receive payment.

As a matter of course, the sight of the deer was hailed with delight by those who expected to come in for a slice, and this additional instance of my making a revolver do the work of a rifle, lifted, in popular opinion, my merits as a sure marksman beyond all question.

Resuming our journey to the northward close in with the land, before a leading wind, we reached by nightfall the southern corner of Strogonoff Bay. The scenery presented throughout the day was of the same bold and picturesque character as that last described, a succession of hills and inland mountains constantly occupying the background. Heading into this bay we anchored for the night. Here we neither landed nor were boarded by officials. Early on the following morning, taking advantage of a fresh breeze from the south-east, we continued on our way northward, and before sunset had sighted Cape Romonzoff, the north-western extremity of the island. Here the sailing-master

and myself were landed, in company with two men, for the purpose of making astronomical observations, while the ship bore down to two islands on the western horizon, in the expectation of sounding them both before dark. To the northward, glancing across the Straits of La Perouse, named after their first navigator, the southern cliffs of Sagaleen Island were visible. The latter is a little smaller in extent than Nipon, and was formerly divided between the Chinese and Japanese, the former holding the northern and the latter the southern half. Its native population is composed of Kuriles, a very hairy, wild, and untutored race of people.

The ship returned a little after midnight, when we put off to her. It appeared that before the first circle had been completed, twilight and a fog had set in, and they were compelled to return no wiser, as to the soundings, than at the time of leaving us.

The night was beautiful ; the fog had cleared away ; bright were the stars, and calm and holy was the silver light of the presiding moon. New and strange constellations glittered along the heavens. The sky was a lustrous mist hanging

like transparent amber above the ocean. The sullen roar of the surf breaking on the beach floated through the night, while the distant outline of mountains loomed up like spectral giants through the darkness.

The next day we attempted to follow the shore of Romonzoff Bay to the eastward as far as Cape So-yo, but encountered at the outset so many hidden dangers in the form of sunken rocks and reefs, that we abandoned the intention, and steered direct for the town of Tomari, in whose bay we anchored for the night.

Several boats immediately came alongside, upon which we exhibited a block of the Japanese wood, in intimation of our desire to be supplied with some; the result was, that several junks, laden with about fifty tons of that fuel, were despatched to us on the following morning. Tomari is a fishing settlement of the larger kind, and is situated immediately under Cape So-yo, the extreme north point of the island. At every indentation in the coast from Matsmai up we had observed one of these small towns. This was not the case with regard to the metropolitan island of Nipon, the inland population

of which is considerably greater than that of the coasts.

In Jesso the coasts are more occupied, and the interior less so, while the most fertile lands are those nearest the ocean ; in Nipon the fertility of the interior is greater than that of the borders, which latter are there chiefly characterised by rugged cliffs, frequently backed by barren and rocky hills. Taking my way ashore, after breakfast on the succeeding morning, my first movement was directed towards the town. It consisted of about a hundred and fifty houses, the majority of which were single storied, and, as regards those tenanted by the Japanese, in construction closely resembled those of the class in the other towns and villages of the empire. Like the laws of the realm, the things of one town closely resemble the same kind of things in another town ; what exists in one part of the dominions exists in another, and all Japan seems to think, feel, and act in universal unison. The population of the place numbers about eight hundred, of whom less than a hundred only were Japanese, the remainder being native Kuriles.

- The male members of the latter community were of rather rude and somewhat repulsive aspect. In height they stood about five feet two or four inches, and were of more compact and sturdy frame than graceful form and proportions. They each wore a long black and bushy beard, growing well up under the rather retreating eye, and hanging down to their breasts ; their hair was likewise long and thick without curl, and of the same colour, but rough and shining. In complexion the majority closely resembled the Algerines, while some were of a light copper colour, and others nearly black. They were certainly the most hairy fellows I had ever seen. The women, as a whole, were even darker than the men, and with their lamp-black hair combed half over their faces, their blue painted lips, and tattooed hands, were, according to my ideal, singularly devoid of beauty. They were mostly clad in a shirt made from the bark of a certain tree, and stretching to the knee only, the legs being left bare ; to this I observed three exceptions, two of whom had cotton ones, and the other a silk one, each frock being confined round the waist by a sash of the same



material. These were the elders of the community. The individual rejoicing in the ownership of the latter garment subsequently arrayed himself in another dress, of a splendid colour and material, beautifully embroidered with gold and silver, to which two sabres in silver scabbards were slung, the whole being the gift of the Japanese Government. The three here alluded to, had their heads shaven after the Japanese manner; but, instead of the remaining hair being formed into a brush at the top of the head, it was suffered to hang down naturally, reaching to the shoulders.

These also wore grass sandals and leggings of woven bark, extending from the knee down. On my taking leave of the wearer of the embroidered dress, he lifted the tips of his fingers up to his eyes, and directed his gaze to the ground, then uttering, in a subdued tone, a lengthy benediction, and stroking his beard from the eyes downward; he lifted his glance and looked full upon me, spreading his hands in repeated elevation and depression, and concluding his salutation with a low and profound bow.

Early on the morning next ensuing, we again pointed to the northward, and very soon the shores of Jesso and Japan sunk below the horizon, as the sloop steamed onward towards the barren bluffs of Kamtschatka.

**TWO JOURNEYS TO JAPAN.**



**JOURNEY THE SECOND.**



## JOURNEY THE SECOND.

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### CHAPTER VIII.

Fair land of Fusiyama, once again  
Ten thousand beauties greet me on thy shores ;  
Once more I see, o'erlooking wide the main,  
Thy mountain peaks, to which my spirit soars ;  
Once more thy bright-eyed daughters, ruby-lipped,  
Are mine to view, how beautiful,—how pale.  
Once more in splendour, pride I see equipped—  
The grace and pomp, the galaxy ye claim,  
Isles of Japan,—I magnify the name.  
Once more I o'er yon waters eye the sail  
That beareth on each swiftly gliding bark ;  
And sweeping round the grand expansive view,  
Mark hill and dale in verdure richly clad,  
Far as the cordillera wild and dark,  
Whose whitened summits pierce the azure blue ;  
So grand the scene—so beautiful, so glad,

Yes, I do greet thee, empire of the east,  
With leaping joy, and fain would woo thee long,  
For I do take delight in thee, and feast  
My eyes on thy fair loveliness o' clime.  
Have I not heard upon thy beach the song  
Of breaking surf, at midnight, when each star  
Hath like a burning jet above thee shone,  
While the pale moon with silver light arrayed  
Thy hills and valleys and thy heights afar?  
Have I not stood at sombre break of day  
Out on thy shore, in silence and alone,  
And watched the rainbow hues of morning fade  
The moon and stars, then flash athwart the sea,  
Lighting the mountains in a bright array?  
And have I not oft at the set of sun,  
Ere pensive twilight had its flight begun,  
Gazed on thy splendours—lingered long o'er thee,  
When colour vied with colour, ray with ray,  
And all was grand, magnificent, sublime,  
All dazzling beauty, and all light divine?  
Yes, I have scanned thee far, and wide, and long,  
Gay land of science, poetry, and song.

AUTHOR.

It was half past five o'clock in the morning, and broad daylight on the western bank of the river Min, near the city of Fow-chow, in the dominions of his Celestial Majesty, the Emperor of China.

It was the twelfth of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.

The entire heavens were of one uniform rosy tint, from zenith to horizon, and brilliantly they contrasted with the deep blue of the mountains, that towered far in the distance. Never before had I seen their outlines so clearly defined, or their blue so much an indigo.

There they stood, grand in their looming magnificence, lifting their rugged and stately peaks high into the refulgent sky, and towering over the hills at their base, these again, in turn, rising over an undulating country, that almost imperceptibly waved itself into the low rice fields that flanked the river. The hill sides were terraced with cultivation, and presented a series of inviting steps, rising and retreating before the eye like the successive seats of a vast amphitheatre.

I stood on the deck of an American steam-frigate, whose smoke-emitting funnel gave promise of that departure which, in two hours afterwards, took place. It was not till the evening of the fourth day afterwards that we reached Shanghai. There we were detained three days more, at the end of which time we put to sea, and made the Japanese island of Lew-kew, one

of the four ports stipulated for in Perry's treaty, en route for Nagasaki, on the tenth day out.

It was sunset when we made our way through a channel, leading between coral reefs, into the harbour of Napa-kiang, situated at the southwestern extremity of the island, and beautiful was the prospect which everywhere met the eye. The bay was clasped by an amphitheatre of hills, green with verdure, and gently undulating, here and there terraced with waving rice fields, and dotted with clumps of heavy timber.

Groves of the feathery bamboo, graceful as the palm, almost concealed the dwellings which nestled together in the dell-like valleys opening into the bay, and which, with their stone enclosures and roofs of red tiles, contrasted pleasingly with the wilder scenery by which they were surrounded.

The spurs of the hills which descended to the sea terminated in abrupt bluffs, in many places so shattered and irregular as to resemble ruins, —ruins, moreover, of castles, that had quite a Connaught aspect. Beyond, and to the right of a rocky bluff, was to be seen the houses of the town of Napa, with the mouth of a small estu-



ary, wherein were moored several large junks, native and Niponese ; while on the top of the highest hill, several miles inland, one of the bastions of the Regent's palace towered above the trees. The exquisite natural harmony of the scene embracing the emerald green of the foliage and the crimson flush of the sky which reflected its tints upon the earth, and above all, the sweet, delicious air, was refreshing after the dingy streets and stifling atmosphere of China.

Several dusky, olive-complexioned, native officials at once came off to us in long flat-bottomed boats, worked with paddles. They were well-formed men, of extremely grave and haughty demeanour, dressed in long loose robes of grass cloth, and with conical-shaped bamboo hats, bound with yellow silk, on their heads. Every thing about them was scrupulously clean, and in excellent taste. Their long black beards, fine and silky, were carefully combed out, and their whole *tout ensemble* bespoke an exactness and neatness quite the antipodes of disorder.

An interpreter accompanied them, and conveyed their compliments and welcome to us in Dutch. A few words only were exchanged, and

they took their departure, after an interview with the captain, in the cabin, of about fifteen minutes, having refused to partake of either the wine, spirits, or biscuits offered to them; it was a great omission that of not providing tea for them, which was afterwards regretted.

The Lew-Kew group, or kingdom, consisting of thirty-six islands, lying between those of Ki-oo-sio and Formoso, and of which this is the largest, is tributary to the empire of Japan, through the Prince of Satsuma. Lew-Kew itself is about sixty miles in length from north to south, with a varying breadth of from five to ten miles, and its scenery, especially at the north and eastern sides, is wild and mountainous.

Soon after daybreak, on the morning following our arrival, the first, and acting second lieutenant, and myself went ashore in one of the quarter-boats, for the combined purpose of stretching our legs, sniffing the fresh air, and seeing whatever there was to be seen.

Passing through the town, and a square open market-place, quite untenanted, we struck across the hills in the direction of the opposite shore. From an elevation about a mile to the eastward,

we enjoyed a beautiful and extensive view of the valleys, clothed with verdure, and stretching down to the blue waters of the ample bay, beyond which, and far in the distance, was seen the line where sky and ocean met—the calm Pacific and the azure void.

Our way lay over the ridges of pleasant, flowery hills, and by footpaths through groves and thickets, till we reached a village where stood the ruins of a stone-built, and once large and stately temple, which one of the natives signified, by pointing to the head on some coins, had been the palace of one of the former kings of Lew-Kew, at a time when the island was divided into three sovereignties.

The island struck me as being one of the most beautiful I had ever trodden, and the scenery the most varied within so prescribed a compass.

The hill-sides and valleys were terraced with cultivation as at Nipon and Jesso, and with a care which outvied even the agricultural zeal of China. The summits of the hills were covered with groves of slender pine and cypress trees; the villages were embowered with arching lanes of bamboo, the tops of which interlaced and

formed perfect avenues of shade, while, owing to the deep shore indentations, the road along the cordillera of the island commanded an extensive, almost enchanting prospect of bays and headlands on either side. In the sheltered valleys the groves and thickets of palm and plantain trees gave the landscape a tropical aspect, while a glance beyond, to the foliage of the hill-tops, brought back the memory of lands equi-distant from the Equator and the Poles.

The villages were characterised by great taste and neatness of construction. In some of them there was a building called *sung-kwa*, provided for the accommodation of the government officials when on their journeys over the island. They were handsome, single-storied wooden buildings, with red and white-tiled roofs and floors covered with soft matting similar to that found in Japan-*Proper*, and the walls were fitted with sliding screens, so that the house could be divided into apartments at pleasure. They were surrounded by gardens enclosed within trim hedges, and always picturesquely situated, and commanding an extensive view.

At about noon we arrived at *Sheui*, the metro-

politan city of Lew-Kew. We entered its precincts through the central gateway, surrounded by an arch of stone, and deliberately took our way up the hill or main street, which was lined on either side with high walls enclosing houses and gardens.

Very soon we came to a second portal, strengthened by a natural cliff, upon which part of it was built, and succeeded by another, but lower wall. Along the foot of this, and the parapet of the one below, flourished clusters of the beautiful sago-palm, many of which were in full blossom. A small stream of water eddied down the rock, and lent antitheses to the scene. At the extremity of this second wall, which was not above two hundred yards in length, was another, but different gateway, opening to the right, and into the outer court of the Regent's palace. Two colossal lions, rudely sculptured out of stone, as also two tall stone tablets covered with inscriptions, stood two and two on either side of this entrance.

The court, which was on the summit of the hill, was irregular in shape, and surrounded by houses, which we took to be the quarters of the servants

of the royal household. On the eastern side was another two-arched gateway, very much resembling the portals of honour to be seen in China. Passing through this without interruption, the few men that we saw, shunning our presence with a scared look, we entered what appeared to be the central court of the palace. It was about thirty yards square, surrounded with single-storied, plain-looking edifices of wood, and paved with large tiles, alternately blue, red, and white. The hall of the palace was on the northern side, the entrance to it being shaded by a verandah, a feature common to all the Lew-kew houses. Crossing this verandah, we were just on the point of making our way in the coolest manner imaginable, and had caught view of a couple of camp-stool-looking chairs of varnished black wood, which had just been vacated by two retreating figures, when a troop of not less than fifty soldiers marched down upon us through the gateway by which we had entered, and politely turned us out of the court-yard into the street again. They did not leave us there, however, but escorted us farther up the street, and on arriving at the next gateway, leading again to the

right, the chief of the party bowed, and invited us to enter.

We did so, and found ourselves in a small courtway, fronting a wooden house, somewhat larger than the common size, and faced with the invariable verandah. Willingly obeying our escort, we ascended the few stone steps leading from the paved court-yard to the verandah, and entered the hall, which was winged, and occupied a central position. The latter was covered with the thick fine matting before described, and the pillars supporting the building, as also the beams of the ceiling, were painted of a chestnut colour. Immediately on entering, we were surprised to see waddle up to us one of the grandees who had boarded us on the previous evening. He saluted us with two very profound bows, and gave life to sundry ejaculations, which we failed to understand literally, but accepted as being, nevertheless, of a highly complimentary nature. I may mention that the responses made on our part must have proved equally unintelligible to him, although from the Japanese sounds I indulged in on the occasion, he was led to suppose that I knew all about it, and as a consequence,

kept on talking at great length, to the evident delight of my two companions.

On the previous evening I had informed him in Dutch, through his interpreter, that I had visited Nipon and Jesso during the previous year, and he appeared to manifest much interest in me from that moment. Meanwhile, several tables that occupied places in the recesses of the hall were being covered with eatables; it was evident that we had arrived just in time for dinner. Our host invited us to be seated. Four of the officers attached to the troop that had escorted us also sat down, while the inferior soldiers loitered about the court.

At each corner of the tables lay a pair of sharp-pointed chopsticks, and in their centre stood an earthen pot filled with saki, as also two china cups, two china spoons, and two tea-cups of coloured ware. From this centre radiated a collection of dishes of various shapes and sizes, and still more various contents. Eggs, boiled, shelled, sliced, and dyed blue and red, bright as beetroot—fish, rolled, and boiled and baked—salted radish tops—fifty different sorts of fruits and vegetables, and slices of the liver of the



wild boar, with a sauce made chiefly of cayenne pepper and mustard, were the delicacies of which we were to partake, and partake we did, for we were hungry.

The *feeding* commenced with cups of tea, which were handed round ; following this, there came diminutive cups of old mellow saki, quite equal to that of Hakodadi or Simoda. The chopsticks were then handed to us ; we sat two at a table, and cups of fish-soup were set before us. This was followed by soup—soup—soup—soup—soup—six different soups, yet all fish soups. “Jonah, what a swamp !” said the second lieutenant. The cups of saki were again filled. Then the varieties on the tables were more or less demolished ; and the final course consisted of small pieces of preserved ginger. A quarter of an hour after the spicy appearance of the latter we took our leave, our host and his party accompanying us to the gateway, where we exchanged salutations. The troop of officials or soldiers had, during the course of our meal, left the courtyard, and were now nowhere to be seen, so that we walked in peace, passing by a few startled individuals on the way, till we found

ourselves once more on the open panorama of hills. Argillaceous and coral rock, limestone dykes and ridges, and talcose slate thrown together in confusion, were the geological peculiarities of the country we were treading. Suddenly we rounded a sharp, rugged point, and came abruptly in front of a gash in the coral rock, immediately beneath which lay a broken earthen jar of large size, and nearly filled with bones, some of which were scattered about it. "Here lieth the remains of—somebody," I observed, for the bones were evidently human. I subsequently ascertained that great reverence was entertained for the dead at Lew-kew; that they were put in coffins in a sitting posture; that they were followed to the first interment in well-built stone vaults constructed in the sides of the hills, by a procession of women in long white veils—white being to them what black is to us; that after the body had been interred seven years, by which time it had become a dry skeleton, the bones were removed and deposited in stone vases, and either placed on shelves within the vaults, or deposited in the crevices of rocks. Here was one of the latter class, which had no doubt become acci-

dentally dislodged, and hence what one of my companions called *the smash*.

Skirting a tea-garden, we came in a few minutes to a sugar plantation, and had a sea of rustling canes spread before our vision. Making our way through a gap in the hedge which surrounded it, and along a path which traversed its entire length, we reached a shed, under which a fine young bull, in mortar-making fashion, was moving lazily round and round, in a circle of about thirty feet diameter. Two men were also present, and saluted us in the regular Lew-Kew mode, by clasping the hands together, and in that position elevating the knuckles to the forehead, and bowing sufficiently low for the hands so placed to touch the ground.

They were timorous of our presence at the first moment, but I quickly calmed their troubled souls, and brought back their hearts to the wonted beat. I will describe this mill.

It consisted of three cylinders of ebony, which were supported in an upright position by means of a wooden frame. These cylinders were about a foot in diameter, and arranged in a row with a mortice between them to regulate the pressure

upon the cane. The central one had a wooden shaft or axle extending through the frame which supported it, and to which was attached a curved lever about fifteen feet in length, by which the mill was easily worked. This central cylinder had a row of cogs of hard wood near its upper end, which played into mortices cut into each of the other two cylinders. In feeding the mill, the cane was first placed between the central and right cylinders, and before its escape, it was caught by the hand of the workman, and being twisted like a rope, was thrust in between the central and left cylinders, by which it was completely crushed, the juice expressed finding its way through several appointed channels into a tub fixed in a ground cavity immediately beneath. There was another shed a little way off, to which the contents of the tub were from time to time taken, and there boiled in metal pans, holding from fifteen to twenty gallons. Leaving this behind us, we continued on towards the shore, passing by trees rich in beautiful foliage, among which budded or blossomed, or spread their wavy tops, the vegetable ivory, slim and stately, the ebony, heavy and gnarled, the mulberry, the

orange, the lemon, and feathery fern, each vying in luxuriance with the other. Crossing a small promontory, composed of gneis and slate strata, we descended into a valley abounding in rice-fields, which extended to the beach; and shortly afterwards, just as the sun went down grandly in the west, we re-entered the town of Napa, and proceeding to the landing-place, at once took the boat which we had ordered to be in waiting for us, and were soon again on board.

Before sunrise on the next day I was one of five moving from the frigate's side to the shore. Our party consisted of the second and third lieutenant, the chief engineer, the senior surgeon, and myself. The direction to be pursued was different to that taken on the previous occasion; so, instead of making for the regular landing-place, we rowed on to the head of the bay, where we each made a prodigious leap from the boat to the shore, for the simple object of preserving our feet dry. We were severally armed with either a revolver or a carbine, and stocked with a day's provision. We at once struck into a narrow footpath, evidently but

little used, and soon found ourselves in a wilderness of vegetation—rich and luxuriant. The way was steep and slippery, and the foliage was dripping with dew, while wild parasitical plants hanging from tree to tree now and again caught us in their entanglement. The trees were chiefly of the palm kind. The soil was a rich dark loam, composed of disintegrated trap-rock and vegetable mould, which reminded me of that of the Isthmus of Pánama.

The ground here and there was covered with a shower of white and orange-coloured blossoms, which I found to have dropped from some fig-like trees, with very glossy and compact foliage. The forest became more dense as we advanced and reached the brow of the ridge. The thick luxuriant crowns of the palms afforded us a canopy, which kept back the rays of the sun, and so darkened the forest, that it was impossible to see more than twenty yards in any direction.

The path was now difficult to trace. As we came into the beds of water-courses, leading down to the opposite side, multitudes of large brown land crabs, six and eight inches in

breadth, scampered before us to their hiding-places—the cool, moist corners of the ravines were crowded with them, but we made no endeavours after their capture. The summit of the ridge was gashed with indentations; gully succeeded gully for nearly two miles, beyond which we approached a descent at so sharp an angle that we had to swing ourselves down, monkey fashion, from tree to tree, to avoid precipitation into the ravine below.

An opening through the woods disclosed to us a wild dell, locked in by steep and rugged mountains, here presenting walls of naked rock, and there the richest foliage imaginable. A stream of leaping water foamed silver-like over the rocky bottom, bordered by thickets of palm and plantain, while the bristling *pandanus* thrust its serried, spiky leaves over the edges of the cliffs, and long loose tresses of flowering creepers, including the purple *Hibiscus*, released from some overhanging bough, swung gaily in the air. The ravine opened to the westward into a narrow valley, which showed signs of cultivation. Taking our way across the noisy little torrent alluded to, we came upon a patch of the taro

plant, the stalks of which were higher and more luxuriant than any I had before seen, rising nearly six feet from the ground. The whole crop was sparkling in the sunshine, the effect of the dew-drops.

There appeared no resource for us in the way of a path forward, so we made the best progress we could through the taro, whose sparkling drops, so pleasing to the eye, produced anything but a pleasant effect upon the skin, for we, or rather our garments, were very soon wet through. This, however, was not the worst feature of the hour; for on emerging from the stalks, we found the forest beyond so steep and dense as to preclude our travelling through it, and were compelled to return again, in the manner in which we came, to the bed of the stream.

The small valley into which it ushered us, was covered with patches of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, tobacco, sugar-cane, Indian goose-berry, and taro, all growing with a beautiful luxuriance. A wooden hut, thatched with bamboo, stood in the centre of the valley; we approached, and found it deserted. Leaving this, we turned a corner of the mountain where



the valley opened northward to the sea, and which we followed down to the beach. There my attention was attracted to a series of holes in the sand, which, on examining, I found to be turtles' nests. To one of these holes we laid siege, and, scraping away several hundred weight of sand, had the pleasure of seeing the carefully deposited treasure disclosed to our hungry eyes.

They were about the size of hen's eggs, but of a soft consistency, and of a yellowish colour. They had been laid with great care, each egg being surrounded with a close covering of sand, and so placed as not to come in contact with each other. We pulled to light ninety-seven of them out of this one hole, which was all that it appeared to contain.

After this, we had the humanity to put back those that we did not intend carrying away with us.

The valley was bounded on the north by high mountains, which seemed almost impassable, owing to the crags of mural rock rising one above the other to their very summits.

The main branch, however, was not that into which we had at first descended, but ran away

to the westward, from whence the stream came down a long gulley stretching between two rugged peaks. We proceeded, in a north-westerly direction, into the ravine, which we ascended, following the water-course. Large rounded masses of trap-rock lay in its bed, and still further we came upon large perpendicular rocks of green-stone, ranging from fifteen to fifty feet in height.

In some places beds of a coarse conglomerate resembling sand-stone rested upon the trap. The forest was very dense, and from the moist, unctuous property of the soil, our progress was rendered slow and arduous. The further we ascended, the darker and deeper became the wood.

Suddenly, and as we were halting on the top of a cliff, a wild boar of a dark brown colour, with a long snout, rushed past us at a porcine gallop, as if startled or pursued. I levelled my revolver, but it was too late.

Resuming our journey, now away from the water-course, we climbed the side of the ravine by clinging to the roots of trees and the tough tendrils of vines and other parasites. A beautiful variety of palms here studded our path, their

stems being from six to nine feet in length, some with broad fan leaves and jagged edges, others slim and feathery, and lastly, the palm, from which is made the sago of commerce. A variety of the *Pandanus* also abounded, having a single straight trunk, from near the base of which projected numerous shoots or props, which took root on reaching the ground. There were groups of them forming a pyramidal basis to the slender column which rose about fourteen feet, crowned with its leafy umbrella. We now reached the summit of the ridge, and commenced the descent on the opposite side. Through an opening in the forest I caught a glimpse of the sea across a small bay opening to the north-west ; the mountains, however, descended in precipices to the water, so that access seemed impossible, save near the head of the bay, where two abrupt passes or chasms disclosed a patch of sandy beach at their meeting. We crept slowly down the steep, forcing our way, frequently on *all fours*, through almost impervious jungle, until suddenly a light broke through the wilderness, and we found ourselves on the brink of a precipice two hundred feet or so in depth. From its

base the mountain sloped away so steeply to the brink of other precipices below, that we seemed to swing in the air, as though suspended over the empty void which existed between us and the breakers.

“Dangerous!” ejaculated the doctor. There was no response, but we clung cautiously to the strong grass that grew on the brink, and thus crept along for about three hundred yards over a place where the least loss of balance would have sent us headlong on to the rocks below. Numerous shrubs with dark glossy leaves and a powerful balsamic odour intersected our path. Finally, attaining a point where the precipice terminated, we descended at a sharp angle over a slippery loam, and among tangled vines and low, horny-leaved palms.

Finding it difficult and perplexing to walk, I laid myself flat on my back, feet down, and so slid over the remainder of the steep, steering as clear as I could of the stems, and occasionally, when the thicket was too dense to be thus penetrated, getting up and resuming the journey at a more open spot. We at last reached the pass or chasm, which descended by a succession of rocky steps from ten to thirty feet in per-

pendicular height, and down which we clambered again on *all fours*, every minute depending for the preservation of our existence on the frail branch of a tree or to the hold of a tendril dangling from the brink. Downward—still down we went into the black depths of the chasm.

At length we gained the beach. It was now one o'clock. Here, within sight of a patch of wild tomatoes, we made a fire under the eaves of rocks, and while the dry drift wood was burning, we took a bath in the sea. The water was deliciously cool, and fresh from the open Pacific. After this, we cooked some of the turtles' eggs, which proved excellent eating, and concluded our repast by the consumption, *tooth and nail*, of some of the tomatoes. Here a couple of native officers were seen on the beach; we beckoned to them, but notwithstanding, they manifested no disposition to advance towards us, we therefore proceeded to advance upon them. Seeing us approach, they applied their locomotory powers in a contrary direction, and turning a rugged point, disappeared. Upon this, as the popular saying goes, *we took to our*

*legs*, and very soon rounded the point at a high speed. No sooner were we observed by the Lew-Kewians than their movement was made to correspond with our own, so that for five minutes we had a brisk race, at the end of which time we had *come up* with the gentlemen, and were surrounding them like a pack of hounds. They manifested much timidity, thinking, no doubt, that we should punish them as spies, which there is no doubt would have been the case had it not been for my own interference, for had any one of the party assaulted either of them, I should have taken the liberty of serving him in an exactly similar matter, and have braved the consequences. I had braved far more dangerous consequences before that, and should have no objection whatever to do so again. I am constitutionally a PEACE MAN, and would allow words to do the work of swords, but when I have brutes to deal with, it is sometimes necessary to use a more solid weapon than language.

It appeared, as I had anticipated, that the officers had not come from Napa, but were stationed at a village a mile or so further on.

They signified that there was no way of returning to Napa from whence they stood, save by the mountain track we had already traversed. They manifested surprise when, in answer to their enquiry, we told them that we had no boat nearer than the head of Napa Bay. We all shrank from the idea of again ascending that terrible path. But there was no help for us, so exchanging salutations with the officials,—who were of too inferior an order alike with all those on the island, the Regent excepted, to be entitled to wear swords—up we went, clinging for life to the roots of trees or the sharp corners of crags, with a blazing sun above us, and not a breeze to disturb the tropical atmosphere. Frequently we were compelled to halt through sheer exhaustion. At length, we reached the summit ridge, from which the descent to the cultivated valley where stood the solitary bamboo hut occupied us till near sunset.

Ascending the same ravine by which we had reached the valley, climbing the slippery mountain at a very sharp angle indeed—say fifty degrees—sago palms, and ferns, in compact groups, here and there impeded our progress

and hid from our gaze the last rays of the sinking sun. Now and again we stumbled into the horizontal, face down, and had to *pick ourselves up again* in the best way we could. After gaining the summit, however, the way was less difficult of travel, and traces of here and there a path were to be seen. Passing a mile or so over a rolling tract, we arrived at the southern slope of the island, overlooking a small cove and promontory. From this we waded through a crop of rich coarse grass, reaching to the waist, and after that we stumbled through cane-fields, at length reaching a cliff overlooking Napa Bay, in which the long, dark hull of the frigate occupied a prominent position. We soon made our way down to the head of the bay, where, according to instructions, the boat was in waiting for us, when gladly taking our places in it, we were rowed quickly on board in the midst of a heavy shower of rain, which had commenced falling just as we put off. I ascended the gangway ladder, that night feeling as fagged as was to be expected, and as were my companions. We had trodden the wildest and least inhabited part of all Lew-Kew.



## CHAPTER IX.

ON the following morning our friend of the six soups, and conical yellow cap, came on board the frigate, accompanied only by his interpreter, —twenty blue-girdled, otherwise naked boatmen, excepted. He was, as on the first occasion, grave, dignified, and courteous. There he stood, at once the type of the average Lew-Kewian and the Niponese. In features, in language, in dress and manners, in social and religious habits and tastes, he was essentially Japanese. In describing him I describe more or less the natives of all Japan. There was the oval head and the oval face; the rounded frontal bones,

and the high forehead, pervaded by a general expression at once mild and amiable. There was the light olive complexion, the slightly oblique eyes, large and animated, the irides of a brown black, the lashes long, and the clustering eye-brows heavy and arched. Then the nose, not too short or widely dilated, but handsome and well-proportioned to the other features, the mouth rather large, the teeth broad, very white and strong, and the chin neatly cut, the cheek-bones moderately prominent—not half as mountainous as those that daily met my gaze in “the land o’ cakes,”—the figure well proportioned and about five feet nine in height, with chest broad and largely developed, the hips narrow, and the neck slim.

Once more I went ashore, but only for an hour, as the ship was soon to put to sea again. I collected a few plants and flowers, and purchased some fruit and a gaily tinted fan, the latter the most useful of instruments, being every native’s almost constant companion, male and female, as in the other Japanese islands.

I observed that the town houses were all of wooden build, and roofed with earthen tiles of

various well-assorted colours, as also that each house was surrounded with verandahs of bamboo, and enclosed within high walls of coral. The majority were two storied, the remainder having one story only. The cottages in the country, on the other hand, were in general thatched with rice straw, and surrounded either with stone or picket fences of bamboo, and attached to which were outhouses for poultry, pigs, or cattle. I was unable to obtain admission to their temples; those that I saw were of inferior architecture to such edifices already described in the narrative of my journey to Simoda and Hakodadi, but the faith in Buddha was just as strong here as in the other parts of the Japanese empire.

The common town costume was neat and graceful, consisting of a loose and prodigiously wide-sleeved silk robe, extending from the neck to the ankles; the former, be it known, is always left exposed in Japan, where a native would as readily think of hanging himself as putting on a *chokér*, i. e. collar and necktie, and hanging is with the Japanese a very different thing to sword-ripping, or rather abdo-gashing; the former would insult a Tartar, the latter is be-

coming to the dignity of a gentleman. Poor letter X! Reader, remember that morning scene at Simoda. However, to take hold of the robe again. It was invariably gathered in at the waist with a girdle of brocaded silk or velvet, in which was just as invariably stuck the embroidered pouch, enclosing a small pipe, and some powdered tobacco. A crimson cap, of cylindrical form, made of bamboo and silk, white stockings and rice straw sandals, completed the attire.

But with the people I had met in the country these garments were more or less inferior, or deficient, in some cases the sole clothing being a short cotton gown; bare-headed and bare-footed men were common, but with pedestrians, painted umbrellas were held in substitution of hats. Amongst all ranks, however, the mode of wearing the hair was the same, it being shaven off about three inches in front, and coiled from the back and sides into a tuft on the top of the head, where it was held by one or more pins, the length and composition of which denoted the rank of the wearer—gold was the most esteemed among the men, and polished tortoise-shell among the women. The costume of the

latter was hardly distinguishable from that of the men, but their more abundant hair and unshaven heads soon relieved the stranger of any perplexity as to sex. Having said this much, I have but three facts to announce, preparatory to leaving Lew-Kew, namely, that the population of this, the metropolitan island was fixed at two hundred thousand, and that the area of the same amounted to five hundred thousand acres, of which about one-eighth was under cultivation.

An hour after my return to the frigate, she was once more threading her way through coral reefs to the ocean, bound direct for Nagasaki.

After many hours spent in working through narrow channels between islands beautifully cultivated to their very summits, we reached the mouth of the bay of that name. The view was varied and delightful. The hill-tops were covered with batteries *en barbette*, for guns of various calibre, while in some cases revetments of rough masonry were carried up from the water's edge, and in one instance a rocky islet—Dezaim—was joined to another by a high arched causeway erected on a stone foundation. The positions of the batteries were well chosen, and in

each case they were covered by wooden sheds, while their slopes and embrasures displayed that art and neatness so essentially Japanese.

The bay was a wide, though not deeply indented basin, studded with islands of various sizes, from hundreds of acres in extent to single conical rocks, and their distribution formed the external and middle harbours; the former was exposed to the west, but the latter was secure and well sheltered. The inner harbour lay in a narrow firth extending three miles inland, and at its head lay the town of Nagasaki, its site as picturesquely chosen as in architecture it was inviting.

While sailing between the outer and middle harbour, a Japanese boat approached us from the shore. We stopped, and admitted on board a two-sworded official, who requested that we would not advance further till the governor had been apprised of our arrival. The smaller passages between the islands and the mouth of the inner harbour were obstructed by cordons of boats, many of which were chained together. The officer returned to the shore, batches of boats cruised about us till his return in about half an hour.

afterwards, when he formally allowed us to enter the inner harbour, just at the moment when we were about to drive through into the harbour, and, if required, clear our way with a broadside and muskets.

The entrance to the inner harbour was narrow, and the hills rose abruptly on either side, most of which were crowned with batteries. The slopes of these eminences were richly clad with crops and verdure, and in their indentations was here and there presented the pagoda-like roofs of a temple. As we advanced, hill rose upon hill, and far in the background, mountain upon mountain. The vegetation appeared to be as prolific as the cultivation was perfect. We passed close to several Dutch war-steamers and merchant craft, the former of which lowered their flag, such being the only salute allowed in Japanese waters, which we at once answered.

The town became animated as we approached; the balconies of the houses were full of eager gazers, and crowds thronged the landing-places. We dropped anchor about half a mile from the Dutch factory at Dezaim, and from the place which, surrounded by boats, seemed to be that intended for

our disembarkation. The boats were now lowered, and forming in procession, accompanied by a crowd of Japanese barges, were steered towards a flight of stone steps, near which many boats were moored, draped with silk to conceal the sitters. Several two-sworded officers of high local rank, backed by troops armed with matchlocks and ornamental spears, were disposed on either side of the pile. We landed, and ascended the steps, at the head of which we were honoured with the customary Japanese salutation, and invited to the palace of the governor.

A strong detachment of military and civil officers, each with two swords, escorted us, in company with the high officials. We ascended three more flights of stone steps, the houses and streets on each side being curtained off. We then came to the guard-house, where a group of officers and men were sitting, after the Persian manner, their matchlocks and spears resting in racks immediately behind them, all the steel of which was covered with cloth sheathing. Here our procession was augmented by three hundred additional troops on foot, the commanding officer being on horseback.



We were now in the centre of a small square, on one side of which appeared the verandah of a large single stone house. This square was lined with troops. Passing them on either hand, we ascended the wooden steps of the verandah, on which we were met by several officials of still higher rank, who bowed, and forthwith heralded us along dark matted passages into a small, low, richly-gilded chamber, divided from its neighbouring compartments by partitions of carved ivory. At the back of this apartment chairs were ranged, on which we were invited to sit. In a few minutes afterwards, we were ushered into another compartment of the building, where five high officers of state received us standing, with the customary bowing salutation of the country, while about twenty two-sworded attendants knelt round them.

The chief officer present motioned us to our seats on low chairs ranged along the room, as he seated himself. He then spoke in a scarcely audible tone to his kneeling interpreter, who in turn leant forward to a second interpreter, who informed our intermediary, one of the lieutenants, in Dutch, that Nagasaki welcomed our arrival.

A train of two-sworded attendants now entered, each—as at Hakodadi, more than a year before—with a small lacquer tray, containing a diminutive bowled pipe, a box of fine tobacco, a dish of burning charcoal, and a lacquer teacup. The trays were placed on small stools in front of each sitter, by the kneeling servers. Then came another train bearing vasselike kettles of silver bronze containing new-made tea, as also lacquer and porcelain dishes, containing choice fruits, and a great variety of tastefully-shaped and delicious confectionery. The Japanese are celebrated for the latter.

We smoked and drank tea and partook of the jellies and the cakes, and, when we had finished, the chief officer present again addressed his interpreter, saying that the governor awaited our presence in the next compartment. Following this, he led the way, accompanied by the other four dignitaries, while the other officials formed on one side of the room, and took their places in the procession immediately behind us.

On entering the room in which each of those from the next apartment at once, and with the most deliberate order, sat or knelt in his ap-

pointed place, we saw seated on mats, on a low dais covered with crimson velvet, four sovereign-like officials, arrayed in many-coloured robes of brocaded silk, the colours, as was invariably the case with everything Japanese, harmonising well. Behind these august personages knelt about thirty two-sworded attendants.

Neither of the four dignitaries rose at our entrance, but the chief interpreter requested us to be seated on chairs which were ranged in front of the dais. Taking them in rotation from the right side, the first was a tall, thin, emaciated man, with eyes half dimmed, and his figure shaking with a troublesome cough. He wore a look indicative of premature old age. He was dressed in the fine dark crapes worn by the higher officials generally, from under which shone a bright robe of yellow silk; his kilt and trousers were both of purple, his stockings of fawn-coloured silk; he was divested of his sandals alike with all the rest; and, to complete his attire, he wore a light, rose-tinted, gauzy crape cloak, which rested, shadow-like, upon his shoulders.

Next to him sat an old but strong and healthy

man, with a generous and noble countenance, and dressed like the one just described, the colour of his garments and his crest alone differing.

Behind these stood two men with reversed swords, indicative of their being the relieved and the relieving governors. The third was a tall young man of slender build, with features of high and discriminative intelligence, and eyes at once black, keen, and eloquent. He was dressed in the same happy taste and combination of colours that distinguished the others. The fourth and last was a large, heavy-made man, with somewhat coarse and bloated features, and about forty years of age. He also was covered with crapes of the most delicate tints and texture. The two latter personages had their longer swords laid beside them on the dais.

At the back of each of the four, two scribes were seated, while in front of the one first described—the relieved governor—knelt two interpreters.

As soon as we were seated, conversation commenced in the Dutch language, by means of

the Japanese interpreters, as in the other room. Enquiries were instituted as to where we came from, and how long we were in coming, and where we were next bound for ; as to the health of the President, and the state of China, the natives of which empire they indirectly alluded to as filthy barbarians ; as to the proceedings of the British fleet in Chinese waters, and the reason why the ships of the Emperor Napoleon were allied with those of England in hostilities against the *Fan-kweis*.

These and some questions of minor import having been briefly replied to by the commander of the frigate, after the lapse of about twenty minutes, during which time we had again been served as before with confectionery, tea, and pipes, the four dignitaries rose, bowed, and retired, followed by a train of two-sworded attendants. Those who had accompanied us from the other room, however, still remained to do the honours. They forthwith pioneered the way into the apartment originally occupied, where a *dejeuner à-la-Japanese* was now spread over a succession of low tables of imitation

marble, each dish of porcelain, lacquer, or silver, resting upon tastefully made mats of many-coloured silks and wools, embroidered with figures of birds, elephants, and, as was to be expected, Fusi-yama. Separate seats, covered with brocaded silk and velvet alternately, of bright blue, red and yellow, were ranged along either side of the tables; the Japanese in every case occupying the side nearest the wall, and facing the Americans.

The first course consisted of a gelatinous fish soup; it was white, and pieces of deceased swimmers of the finny tribe plentifully abounded in it, suggesting at once the idea of oyster sauce. This was served in deep, saucer-like bowls, of almost transparent china-ware. As soon as we had finished, one by one, the chief of the two kneeling attendants apportioned to each individual seated, took up the bowl, silver spoon, and ivory, spear-pointed chop-stick used, and handed them to the inferior servant stationed immediately behind him, who carried them out of the room direct. By the way, speaking of the chop-sticks, they were of course intended to be used as forks in taking up the pieces of fish,

but my next neighbour, a Kentucky man, mistook his for a tooth-pick, and used it accordingly. A sad mistake. Thus there was one attendant always present, to anticipate and supply the wants of each.

After the soups, to our astonishment, came soup again, but made chiefly of crabs; soup number three succeeded, and after that every one was served with a lacquer plate, containing three rosy prawns. These dispatched, the plates were removed, and at the same moment ditto of raw fish of the sole aspect, but of a very tender texture and delicate flavour was substituted; with the sauces provided this was excellent, and much resembled lobster, not *raw* lobster, however, be it understood. Following this, came hard-boiled eggs, divested of their shells, dyed red and sliced.

The next course was vegetables, and vegetables only. A mixture—plain and transmogrified; these also were of a brocoli-like tenderness, the radishes excepted; after this, small plates of turkey and wheaten bread were served. Then silver tankards of saki. Then lacquered plates of boiled seaweed. Then three different

courses of fruits, sophisticated and unsophisticated, also confectionery, as choice, as various in kind, and as luscious, as in shape it was fantastical. . Then a course of dried bear's-gall, consisting of a small piece, to each person—a rare, costly, and much-esteemed article, famed for its nutriment, and cheese-like propensities, in urging on a sluggish digestion, and lastly, lacquer-cups of tea, the small-tubed pipes and diminutive boxes of fragrant tobacco. We smoked, and felt ourselves in almost another world.

Ten minutes after the feast was over, the Japanese, who had not exchanged a word with us since entering the room, conveyed to us, through their interpreters, the information that they were about to take their departure. We rose, the high officials bowed to us, knuckles to breast as usual, and the immediate attendants rising from their knees, made way for us to follow their superiors out of the room.

We acted accordingly, and proceeded in procession to the verandah doorway, where the officials again bowed to us, after which the ceremony being responded to, we left the palace,



our entire visit having occupied only one hour.

Troops of soldiers, in blue and red, lined the square, as at the time of our landing, and a Japanese military band struck up merrily, as we emerged upon the open ground. The music was beautiful but strange, the instruments, both stringed and tubular, being unlike either violin or guitar, bugle, fife, or bassoon, but something between, and of various, unique, and elegant construction; there were rattle-drums too, which uttered sonorous sounds when shaken, and there was a musical conductor, who sang and shouted with genuine inspiration, as he motioned his body and his leading stick, and who displayed more energetic enthusiasm than any scion of the empire of the rising sun that I had before met with.

“*Music hath charms,*” was my soliloquy, as, after halting for a few moments, we proceeded on our way. We did not return to the beach and our boats, as the Japanese appeared to suppose we would, judging by the soldiers lining the path thither, but cutting our way through the crowd, entered one of the main streets of

the city, followed by a respectful, almost silent multitude.

The arrangement and width of the streets were similar to those of Simoda and Hakodadi, the architecture was, however, on the whole superior; verandahs invariably sheltered the houses, and each stood in its own garden, which was, without exception, laid out with artistic judgment and tasteful neatness. They were all arranged and cultivated on the landscape principle; rocks and rivers, hills and valleys, miniature meadows and dwarfed forest trees everywhere characterised their aspect. The Japanese are great adepts at both the dwarfing and forcing of vegetable products of all kinds.

Here and there appeared at the doors of the houses a gaily dressed lady, with a dragon, or a peacock, or a phoenix wove into, or embroidered on her dress of beautiful silk or exquisite crape, and her hair set-off with pins of gold and polished tortoise-shell, and her small feet resting on light high sandals, just revealed beneath her flowing robe, and her lips rosy, but often rouged, and her placid countenance pale enough to show an enchanting shadow of pink,

and her eyes black and winning, and her form graceful and well shaped, and her whole look so kind, so gentle, so passive, and so amiable that fascination was irresistible. The Japanese women paint their lips with a cosmetic prepared from the *carthamus tinctorius* in cups of porcelain. When a slight coat is applied it imparts a bright red colour, but when it is put on thickly, a deep violet hue is produced, which latter is much prized.

At one corner of the street alluded to, I was attracted by a Buddhist temple, which was approached by a short avenue of cypress trees ; so, leaving my companions, I sauntered up the shady walk, and ascended the steps and entered the sacred edifice alone and unmolested. Strange to say, this was during the time of public worship, and when nearly a hundred kneeling devotees were present. A large shrine, with a gilt image in its recess ; two large globular lamps, and two burning candles immensely long and thick, as also numerous gold and porcelain vases, holding lighted tapers, and surrounded by a forest of artificial flowers, were the objects that first rivetted my attention.

On both sides of this magnificent and richly-gilded shrine were two smaller ones, each illuminated with lighted candles, and perfumed tapers burning with coloured flame, the effect of which was very beautiful. In front of the principal altar, within an enclosure, knelt six shaven-headed priests,—the latter and physicians shave the whole of the hair of their heads—robed in crimson silk and white crape, the centre and chief of whom engaged himself in striking a small saucer-shaped bell, while four more of the number performed a similar duty with padded drumsticks on hollow vessels of lacquered wood, which awoke a dull, monotonous sound. They kept good time, playing in unison, and toning their prayers to their music in chaunting. At the conclusion of this singing and drumming, they bent their foreheads to the floor, after which they rose, and repaired to the smaller shrines, where a ceremony made up of gesticulation and a solemn reading of prayers took place. In the meantime the audience knelt with their eyes directed to the ground, and repeating the prayers in silence. A quarter of an hour or more had elapsed from the moment of my entrance before

my right of presence was in any way questioned. Then, however, one of the acolytes approached me from a side door, and with a most imploring look desired my departure.

Promptly I complied, having every respect for the temple, its priests, and devotees, although by no means an admirer of Buddhism or its doctrines ; but I respected it as I respected the Japanese. If we honour a nation, we must honour that nation's flag. If I, in common egotism as a Christian, looked upon their idols as unworthy gods and considered their religion an error and delusion, that was no reason why I should manifest my indifference or contempt ; if the Japanese erred in their belief, they were alone responsible. In common parlance, it was their business, not mine. Remember the adage, *Love me, love my dog* ; and is not the religious faith and doctrine of an empire as dear to it as is the dog to the individual ? I know that there are many who entertain narrower views on this point than I do myself, who believe that eternal damnation awaits all who are of a creed or faith different to their own ; but how erroneous, how unphilosophic, how prejudiced, perverted, unworthy, and

lamentable is such an opinion, Yet there are grown men and women who are foolish, empty, and egotistical enough to preach about such things as being *gospel truths*.

Out on such uncharitableness ! it is unworthy of man to man ; it is insulting to the Creator. Is not the Hindoo as worthy before God as anyone of us who boasts a superiority ? I say yea, and in the full knowledge of the truth, I defy all who differ to disprove.

Taking my way from the temple, I strolled down the street in the direction of the beach. Just before reaching it, and at one corner of the thoroughfare running parallel with the same, stood another but a smaller temple, dedicated, as a passer-by informed me in Dutch, to mariners. A causeway of solid stone, leading over an arched bridge, with a low, well-constructed wall on either side, led to the steps of the sanctuary. Its architecture was in the style common to the other temples of Japan, with a projecting roof of tiles ornamentally arranged in cornices of flowers and graceful scrolls, and supported by lacquered pillars of fanciful device. Over the doorway was a fine specimen of carved wood-

work, representing the sacred stork on the wing, such being symbolically intended to represent the uncertain career of the mariner. The body of the building was closed partly with gilded wall and partly with oiled paper casements, richly decorated with surface figures, raised in velvet. The usual stone lantern lay on the left, and from the door hung a rope of plaited rice-straw, communicating with a bell inside, and intended to be pulled by the devotee on entering, to awake the deity to a knowledge of his spiritual necessities.

The multiplicity of religious sects is a prominent feature among the Japanese ; but this division and difference does not give rise to the least embarrassment to the government or in ordinary life. Every individual has a right to profess whatever faith he pleases, and to change it as often as he thinks fit. Nobody concerns himself as to whether he does so out of conviction, or in regard to his own interest in some other respect. It frequently happens that the members of one family follow different sects ; but this is never productive of ill-will, and controversy is a species of argument which happily

is now never indulged in by them. The spiritual emperor is the high priest of the ancient Japanese religion, but all the other sects have also a pious adoration for him.

There are temples in several of the cities throughout the empire allotted to and tenanted by monks and nuns ; they lead a very austere life, according to popular belief ; but here I was informed that they preferred the certain enjoyments of this life to the uncertain joys of the future, and acted accordingly.

Continuing along the street, my path was crossed at the next turning by a procession of about twenty, headed by two priests, next to whom four men carried a sort of tub about three feet high by two and a half in diameter at the top, and two feet at the bottom. I enquired of a two-sworded gentleman in scarlet, with a large highly-coloured fan in his hand, who was brought to a stand-still by its passage alike with myself, what it was all about, and he at once confirmed my supposition, namely, that it was a funeral procession, and that the thing on poles was a coffin stuffed with a twisted corpse ; for when the Japanese do not reduce the body of a



defunct one to ashes, they bend it so that it may accommodate itself to the described coffin, the joints being rendered flexible by means of a certain dosia powder, which is universally applied to that end after death. Of this I made a sketch on the spot, pulling out my pencil and paper, to the astonishment of the scarlet gentleman just mentioned, and who kept looking over my drawing as I rapidly progressed with it, evidently as curious as he was amused at my promptitude, and the to him novel style of portraiture.

The procession disappeared and I resumed my way, the Japanese, who was an imposingly handsome man, walking by my side. He spoke a little English, a little French, and a good deal of Dutch, but he had a peculiar knack of jumbling those languages and his own all together in his conversation, so that it would have required a no ordinary and discriminating linguist to keep up with him and fathom the depths of his observations. To me they were occasionally a mystery; but then, seeing that I paid him back in his own coin, I had no right to complain. While speaking of this, my new ac-

quaintance and his language, I may mention that the Japanese pronunciation is exceedingly difficult for Europeans. There are syllables which are not pronounced like *te* or *de*, but something between; then there are middle sounds between *be* and *pe*; *sse* and *sche*; *ge* and *she*; *che* and *se*, which I could never produce. No European would succeed in pronouncing the Japanese word for fire; I have studied at it for a year, but in vain; when uttered by the Japanese it seemed to sound like *fi*, *chi*, *psi*, *fsi*, pronounced through the teeth, but however much I turned and twisted my tongue about, the Japanese persisted in their negative, and such words are very numerous in the Japanese language. In learning the latter, besides the reading and pronunciation of it, great difficulty is experienced in remembering the immense number of words and symbols in common use, while many things and actions have two names, so as to constitute almost two separate languages. One is used in addressing superiors and equals, when they wish to show more than ordinary politeness and respect; the other in communicating with the common peo-

ple and in general conversation. This is another evidence of their high and complicated civilization.

We had not proceeded more than a hundred yards from our halting-place, when my scarlet friend stopped in front of a small archway leading through a small avenue of orange trees, flanked by gardens, and thence up half-a-dozen marble steps to the hall-door of a well-verandahed comfortable-looking habitation, with a conical roof, which, by sundry words and signs which would lose their effect if I were to attempt to reduce them to pen and paper, I was led to understand was his house. Would I walk in and take tea? Of course I would. So I did; and to the evident delight of my new host, whose bowing politeness was so intense, that I had never met with its like before, and never expect to meet with again out of Japan. Crossing the neat but elaborately constructed porch, we entered by the open doorway a spacious hall, matted according to the government regulations, which prescribes that every mat manufactured throughout the empire must be of the one uniform size.

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Similar regulations are in force with respect to the building of houses and all sailing craft which must in no case be diverged from without special authority. At the opposite end of the hall, which consisted of a wall painted very much after the style of the drop at a theatre, a passage crossed it, so that the house could be entered either to the right or the left. A man servant, clad in yellow gossamer, was sitting à la Turque in the one to the right, by which we entered; he bowed his forehead towards the ground as his master approached, and passed him, immediately after which he followed us into the saloon, or common sitting room of the house, where a beautiful sight at once presented itself to me. I should rather have said a beautiful woman, for it was no other than my host the scarlet gentleman's wife. Her hair was dressed in a manner which was new to my experience, being worn at full length down her back, and tied at equal distances by strings of velvet crape. It was highly suggestive of a bell-rope; but what of that? it was a surpassing ornament. Her lips were of a delicate purple tint, the effect of cosmetic, which as she slightly moved them with an expression of

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timid wonder, at the moment of my entrance, disclosed a set of well - formed but blackened teeth, the invariable sign of marriage. Her complexion was pale, inclining to tawny, and a delicate hue of russet pink adorned her cheeks. Her brows were black, alike with her hair, and arched. Her head was rather large, and displayed a high, well-formed forehead; her eyes were narrow, and somewhat sunk in the head, the eyelids forming in the great angle of the eye a deep furrow, but the expression was one of extreme gentleness and amiability. So soft, so confiding was her manner, that she inspired me with the virtuous passion of admiration. Her hands and feet, the latter resting on a feathery mat, were small and exquisitely formed, and her whole figure, attitude, and movements were full of grace. She was arrayed in a dress of beautiful silk, into the skirt of which behind was wove a representation of the peacock. The colours were as bright as those worn by her sire, but then they harmonized well, as is invariably the case with the Japanese, so that the most brilliant collection of tints never wears an aspect otherwise than pleasing.

My host introduced me as *America*. I bowed low to the lady, who had risen from a small ottoman-like stool, on which she was seated, book and fan in hand, at the moment of my entrance, and who bowed likewise, closing her hands, and raising them to her bosom as she did so. After this, she resumed her seat, and without uttering a word. A metallic brazier stood in the centre of the room, and round it were arranged three velvet-topped cushions or stools intended to be used as seats. On one of these I was invited to be seated ; so I made the descent with an elegance for which I was indebted to my "shiny leather" boots, and congratulated myself very much on reaching the cushion without a "flop."

My host, having handed his swords to the attendant, followed me to the floor, where he arrived as safely and as naturally as I had done myself ; immediately after which the yellow gossamer-clad attendant laid a tray containing the usual pipe and tobacco-pouch before each of us. As I had no fan, one was handed to me. It was unnecessary to order tea ; it was brought in on a tray by another male domestic, arrayed in white cambric, a minute or so afterwards.

The windows of the room were open, and disclosed across the verandah, which surrounded the house, a well-cultivated garden of diversified aspect. The walls of the room itself were entirely covered with beautiful Japanese drawings of large size on paper, and very much resembling stage scenery. The floor was of course covered with the finest of matting; the ceiling was richly gilded, and bedizened with many exquisite colours, while the entire aspect of the place was one of seductive repose.

My host now became voluble on the subject of myself and our meeting, to his wife, who made her comments and enquiries in a soft, subdued voice

“Picture, Monsieur,” said he, bowing and extending his hand, first towards myself and then towards the lady.

I saw that he wanted me to produce the sketch I had made of the funeral procession, so I readily complied, giving them to understand, however, that it was by no means in a finished state. They appeared to be much pleased with it, my host handing it back to me with the enquiry, whether I would sketch him?

“Oui—yes—ya—zoo—ramavoo—tsegum—tilabo.” I would do so with pleasure, and as man and wife were biblically asserted to be one flesh, I presumed that he wished me to include that lady. He did. He should be glad to see her as a poppy in the field.

So drawing forth my pencil and paper case, which I always carried about me when on shore, I began to eye the features of my entertainers, and, much to their amusement, to depict the same upon the white surface before me. When I had finished the pencilling, I showed it to them with the remark, that I would colour and complete the drawing when I went on board the ship, and bring it to them on the morrow. But no—they did not like that. They did not want to be seen on board the ship. However, on my assuring him that it should not be shown, my host consented to the arrangement.

“You would like to see my children?” said he.

“Their presence will delight me exceedingly,” was my reply; upon which he tapped the metal brazier standing before him with his fan, which produced a mellow, bell-like tingling sound,



which was answered by the lobby servant in yellow gossamer, who entered and knelt before us. A few words of instruction were softly, scarce audibly, uttered by the lady, the man bowed his head low, rose and left the room, moving backwards, with his hands resting upon his thighs till he passed the doorway.

Having now drank each a cup of tea, and smoked a pipe, during which time the lady had been engaged in fanning herself, and holding occasional conversation with her husband, the latter suggested our rising and taking seats under the verandah, or out in the garden, where we could see and admire the fruits and flowers of the earth.

So, accordingly, we rose, and passing through the open windows, on a level with the floor, the garden, in all its loveliness, was spread out before us.

I am rather a lover of Dutch and Chinese taste and detail in the arrangement of gardens, although an admirer of the grand, the rough-hewn, the wild, and the massive in nature; I was, therefore, pleased and refreshed by the sight of the miniature landscape before me,

with its arched bridges spanning a river or a waterfall, its terraced hills and its fertile plains, its jungle and its groves of laurel, citron, and peach, and although here all was artificial, it was highly picturesque and suggestive of the more imposingly real.

Here, in imagination, I was taking a bird's-eye view of an extensive sweep of country, instead of an acre or so of cultivated ground. We had not been more than five minutes under the verandah, when two nurses noiselessly presented themselves before us, the one leading a fine little boy, about three years of age, who, with the front hair shaven off his head, looked as wildly intelligent as did the urchins I had seen at Simoda, on the first day of my landing in the empire. The feet and legs of this young gentleman were bare, and his sole clothing was a sleeved frock of straw-coloured crape, drawn in at the waist by a red silk sash. The second nurse bore her charge on her back, with her hands behind holding on, after the manner adopted by the lubras of Australia, and occasionally by the women of most other countries. It was entirely covered, the head and face excepted, by a thin

loose-fitting robe of similar colour and material to that worn by the elder boy ; for this also was of the gender masculine, as I was readily able to perceive by the shaven head, a ceremony begun very early in life, for the infant in question I ascertained to be under twelve months old.

The nurses were both pretty girls, with bosoms considerably exposed, displaying a skin even paler than their faces. Their hair was tastefully drawn from off the forehead and sides, and fastened in the usual way with gold pins, in a graceful knot on the crown. Their ears were small and delicately formed ; their hands and feet, both of which were uncovered, answered the same description. Their gauzy dresses of light-blue cotton extended from the shoulders to the ancles, but left the outline of their form and limbs distinctly traceable. A yellow crape sash circled the waist, and tightened their dresses round them, which garments wore anything but an inflated aspect, so much so that, now, if I had to name the antipodes of the hooped and crinolined dress of my sister—I speak in the Quaker sense of the term—Lady.

Flounce Rotunda, of Grosvenor Square, I should select that of one of the nurses of my Nagasaki friend.

I very much admired, and expressed my admiration of the little things upon which, like other mothers in other lands, my hostess seemed quite as much pleased with me as I was with the children. She smiled, and petted them with caresses—*paterfamilias* smiled and tickled one of them under the chin—the nurses smiled, and I smiled myself, meanwhile lavishing my eulogistic remarks and gestures, and shaking them by the hand, a mode of handling to which they appeared to be quite unaccustomed, so that, on the whole, judging by appearances, we were a happy family, the yellow-gossamer-clad individual, who knelt at some distance with a pleasant grin playing across his features, included.

As it was now sunset, I took my leave, the lady bowing low, the nurses and children still being by her side, and my host accompanying me to the porch, and insisting upon my accepting as a gift the fan which had been handed to me at the time of my entrance, and expressing a

renewed hope that I would allow him the felicity of entertaining me on the day following.

On reaching the steps of the landing place, I found no ship's boat, all the officers having gone on board. I was about to exercise my patience till a boat might arrive for me, when a swordless gentleman,—a merchant of the place, as he informed me—approached the steps in his barge, and bowing low, invited me to enter, saying that he would take me off to the frigate. I promptly availed myself of the welcome offer, and thanked him. To work at once went the ten scullers, swinging and singing as they made the light, graceful craft skim arrow-like the waters towards the long, dark hull of the man of war. The bay was bathed with the last dyes of sunset as we flew along its surface, and very soon the gangway ladder was reached. I bowed to the Japanese, and ascended it, while the sculls once more were put in play, and the gay craft was gliding to the shore.

## CHAPTER X.

THE morrow came, and again I was treading the streets of Nagasaki,—streets as clean and level as the day was bright, and as my spirits were elated. How happy and joyous I then felt, I can well remember ; and yet there was no individual circumstance with which I was associated to make me so :—it was the whole scene, the fact of my being in the wondrous empire of Japan. A vague sense of future aggrandizement arising from my association with the country, of the scenes of which it might be the theatre—of invasion—of revolution—and destruction which destiny might have in store for it, all combined

to fire me with ambition and fan the spirit of enterprize.

Moreover, there was nothing around that conspired to damp the ardour of my thoughts; the elements were propitious, the rosy hills were decked with golden light, the sky was a mighty vault of clear, unruffled blue, untraversed by a single cloud—all nature looked glad and festive. No home-sick feelings marred the pleasure of my existence; all the world was alike to me; a rover over the earth, what cared I for a patch of ground,—the sod of any ancestors? Here was as good a field on which to fight the battle of life, as any, so far as I was concerned. These, I say, were my thoughts, as, for the second time, I took my way along the main street of Nagasaki.

I had the coloured portrait in my pocket, so I took my way, “the observed of all observers,” over the well-swept, well-paved ground to the house of Noskotoska, my host of the previous day. While making mention of his name, I may observe that the Japanese usage with respect to such, differs from that of all other nations. The family name of an individual is never made use

of by him, except in the signing of solemn contracts ; and the particular names by which men are designated in ordinary life and conversation, varies according to age and position. Thus, in official ranks, it is a common thing for the one man to have been known and addressed by half-a-dozen different names.

I passed under the same elegantly carved archway, along the same avenue of orange and citron trees, under the same porch, and over the soft matting to the lobby, where was squatted the herald in yellow gossamer. He inclined his forehead to the ground as I approached him, then rose, and receded before me backwards, with his hands resting on his thighs to the door of the saloon in which I had sat on the previous day. It was unoccupied ; but the windows were open, as before, revealing to the eye the pleasant garden prospect without. The attendant placed one of the velvet stool cushions for me, if I chose, to be seated upon, and with hands to thighs, he again moved backwards out of the room.

In a few moments, during which I had amused myself by examining a gaily-painted fan,



which had Fusiyama on one side, and a wrestling match on the other, my host made his appearance, but this time clad in robes of different and more mingled colours to those worn on the occasion of my first seeing him. He bowed low, clasped his hands, elevated them to his forehead, and again to his breast, and bade me welcome. I presented the picture to him ; he again bowed, and thanked me, in the name of Nipon and his wife, for the honour that I had done them. I bowed my acknowledgments, and responded with many assurances of the pride and pleasure I felt in the honour of his acquaintance in particular, and of Japan in general. He again bowed low, and said that Nipon was exalted, and Noskotoska was flattered. I would take a cup of the delicious and life-restoring tea grown on the terraced hills of the island, and I would burn a pipe of the fragrant leaf of the tobacco plant, which flourished in the valleys ; and very soon the partner of his career on the *unsteady* earth—he must have been disturbed by earthquakes—would be down to reward me with her love and smiles. I bowed again. My host drew forth the tobacco pouch from his sash, while simultaneously the

tenant of the yellow gossamer entered with a tray containing another for myself.

I followed the example of my friend, and sat down before the metal brazier, on which a small fire of prepared charcoal was burning at the time of my entrance. I hoped the children were well. Yes ; they were in the happy enjoyment of the most perfect health. I was glad to hear it. Then followed a series of questions which I was puzzled to answer, or yet scientifically to explain. What did I think of balloons ? Had I ever ascended in one ? Did I understand the current of the electric *spark* ? i. e., the system and working of the electric telegraph. Had not the introduction of steam in the working of agricultural implements and machines been productive of much injury in disemploying an immense number of labourers, or were the new wants thereby created sufficient to absorb the labour so dispensed with ? I answered in the affirmative. "Such innovations," said he, "are not permitted by Nipon." Railways he thought useful ; he made allusion to the model one, and locomotive engine, as also to the mile of telegraph wire, presented by the

government of the United States, through Commodore Perry, three years before, and thought that some day Nipon would have railways. He then asked me if I had ever been in England ; upon which I smiled, and nodded, and spoke a ready assent. It seemed to have suggested something to him, for he rose, and begging me to pardon his momentary absence, left the room by the door at which I had entered.

A few moments only elapsed before he re-entered, bearing in his hand nothing more nor less than a copy of "*The Illustrated London News*," the sight of which, in such a place, and at such a time, was refreshingly novel. It was nearly three years old, and contained a Japanese sketch ; the copy in question, he informed me, had been given to him by *English* some couple of years before. I was glad to meet with this stray representative of the newspaper press of my country, so highly cherished and securely domiciled in the house of Noskotoska, and the land of Fusi-yama. I felt myself again for a moment in the *Strand*, with all the noisy clattering of its ceaseless traffic ringing in my ears.

But I was in a fairer clime ; one rich in poetry

and silence, where the machinery of civilization worked less laboriously and harsh than does it where Anglo-Saxon competition prevails, and the earning of bread is a perpetual struggle. I was still perusing the paper when the erect and graceful form of the fair wife entered the room. The salutation was as on the previous day, but free from all embarrassment. She greeted me in a few words of her native language, which I did not distinctly hear nor understand, but which, no doubt, were words of compliment or welcome. She saw the coloured portrait on one of the cushions, and anticipating the act of her sire, leant down and picked it up, expressing her satisfaction with it at the first moment of its examination. Her dress and appearance, including the mode of wearing the hair, was nearly the same as on the previous day, and her manner was just as winning, amiable, and full of gentleness.

A few minutes after this, during which my host had again left the room, and returned with several books relative to the European languages, including a Dutch and Japanese Dictionary, and a Japanese and Latin Dictionary, it was proposed by him that we should go out and witness a

theatrical performance which was then going forward somewhere in the town. It was now one o'clock. Accordingly I bowed to the lady, who declined accompanying us, and left the house under the proffered guidance. We walked, evidently much observed by all who saw us, but still not honoured with the presence of a crowd at our heels. People stood at their doors and eyed us wistfully, and pedestrians that we overtook paused for a moment to allow us to pass on before them. We were evidently esteemed anything but *small beer* by the populace. Taking the first turning to the right, we continued on about two hundred yards, when we again turned to the right, not into a street, however, but into a half-tea-house, half-theatre sort of structure. My friend walked deliberately in, and I with him, unchallenged and untaxed, for neither ticket office nor ticket taker was visible. "*Pro bono publico,*" said I. "It is free," said my guide, in thirty-three Japanese words,

We entered the presence of the performers. Three tiers of seats were arranged in front, and at the two sides of the ring or stage, on which three individuals in the most grotesque garb

were dancing, and uttering strange sounds, not natural to man, nor common to beasts, although from the masks of animals' heads which they wore, I took it for granted that it was intended that the cries, mutterings, and evolutions in which they were indulging should be supposed by the audience as emanating from the beasts or demons they were representing.

"A rude state of art," I was about to remark to my companion, but I thought better of it, and restrained the sentence. One was a dragon, the next was a demon, and the third a lion. Each was mythological and imaginative. Neither a demon, or dragon, or lion had ever belonged to real life in Japan. The masks were elaborately worked, and the costume was of the richest and most brilliant colours.

The stage, or rather the scene of action, imitical in its supposed mimicry, was on the bare ground, as at the Hakodadi wrestling match, the space allotted to the actors being fenced in with a low silver railing. From the centre of this space rose a high, lacquered pole, which brought back the memory of one that I had seen in the middle of a bear-pit, at the Liverpool Zoological

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THEATRICALS, AT NAGASAKI.

STANNARD & DIXON, LITH.

MIRIAM CORNWALLIS, DEL.

14



Gardens, with a very greedy-looking animal climbing and swinging on its summit. But in this case the pole supported a gilt, umbrella-shaped canopy, fringed with eagles' talons in gold, which served the joint purpose, when required, of screening both sun and rain off the performers. The amphitheatre-like tiers of seats were also verandahed sufficiently to answer the same end; otherwise the entertainment was *al fresco*.

There were about a hundred people present, many of them ladies, and magnificently attired. My companion informed me that the performance, which commenced at noon, would continue without interruption till nine o'clock that night. During that time three fables would be acted, not in succession, but simultaneously, one act of one fable succeeding that of the other fable, and so on, like the chapters in a novel, one batch in, another out. This arrangement allowed those who had a favourite play to retire at intervals during the time, and still to be able to witness the entire performance of the piece they most preferred. This particular kind of acting, said my

introducer, ushered in the bi-monthly feast-days, and was alone peculiar to such.

After I had been there a few minutes, the actors retired through a passage sunk in the ground, to where I knew not, but I supposed the *Green Room*, although whether it was located behind the scenes, or under the scenes, seemed hard to tell, and was a puzzle to me. A new set emerged from the same subterranean highway immediately afterwards ; they were masked in a manner similar to the others, and dyed with all the colours of the rainbow. I pulled out my pencil, and began to sketch them. My companion looked horrified.

The performers would certainly run away if they saw me, and I persisted in it. However, I laughed it off, made a few more touches with the pencil, and put the sketch in my pocket, relying upon my head and memory to fill up the rest of the picture. After staying here about an hour, a single-sworded gentleman, with a conical, lacquered hat shading his brows, entered the theatre, and approached us. He bowed low, taking my noble friend with his hands resting

upon his thighs, and then handed to him a letter encased in a yellow envelope, opening at one end, where it was fastened with a seal.

Having perused the missive, he addressed the messenger in Japanese, and then, turning to me, and partly in that language, and partly in English, French, Latin, and Dutch, he requested me to excuse his absence for a short time, as affairs of moment required his immediate attention. I bowed a ready assent, and wished him a safe journey and a happy return. He acknowledged the salute and compliment in a manner still more formally and flatteringly polite. After this, I did not remain at the theatre, but following my own restless inclinations, sallied forth to view the town, and revel away in the enjoyment of my own thoughts, and the communing with my own soul.

Taking my way along the street, intersected by here and there a gate, and so on till I reached the water-side, I crossed a high, arched, and magnificent stone bridge, connecting the island of Nagasaki with the small fan-shaped islet of Dezaim, the seat of the Dutch factory. This bridge is six hundred and sixty feet long by

two hundred and forty in breadth. Just then I met a party of *ours*, and joining them, I was soon making a pedestrian tour of the town and all the shops in it, at least one-third of which were devoted to the sale of books and the various paraphernalia common to traders in printed paper.

Entering the grounds of a temple, we perceived many of the tombs hung with coloured lanterns, or rather oil lamps; they were either suspended by a silken cord from a staff leaning over the monument, or simply resting on the stone-work. This we were informed was a ceremony which occurred on certain feast-days, like the present, being a tribute of respect from the children of a deceased person to his memory.

Leaving my companions for the purpose of repairing to the theatre, there to rejoin my two-sworded friend, I threaded my way through a succession of gates, and after a moderate fifteen minutes' walk, arrived at the desired portals. He was there in all his majesty, awaiting my arrival. We must have pipes and tea; accordingly, we adjourned into a room lying to the right of the lobby or hall by which we had entered, which was occupied by several ladies, some

standing, some seated on cushions, but all drinking tea. We stood and ate confectionery, and smoked, and of course drank tea also. After this, we had each a liqueur-glass of saki, and returned to witness the grimaces of the clowns. We appeared to soon tire of the performance, for we left within half an hour afterwards, by mutual consent. Here the hospitalities of the day terminated with a low bow from the Japanese, and an imitation of the same from myself. Once more the knuckles were raised to the breast, and we parted, each walking in an opposite direction.

I took my way direct to the beach, and finding one of the frigate's boats in waiting, put off to her, the batch I had met on the bridge having already gone on board. At about ten o'clock that night there was a general rush on deck. I was one of the crowd. The spectacle which presented itself to us was almost indescribable. Looking across the bay to the sloping shore of Nagasaki, I was led to imagine that I saw a torrent of fire pouring down the hill-side. This was owing to the immense number of small straw-built and paper-sailed boats, each brightly

illuminated with many-coloured lanterns, that were being carried by the populace to the beach, there to be cast adrift upon the waters. There being a fresh land-breeze blowing at the time, these boats, to the number of about a thousand, were soon dancing to and fro about the bay, so producing a gayer and more singular effect than I had ever before witnessed. The entire surface of the water seemed to be covered with *ignis fatui*. After the lapse of about an hour, one by one, and ten by ten, the sails, and then the boats themselves became ignited, and burnt up with a smoky red flare, passing into a crimson, and ending in a sulphureous blue flame, the result of chemicals placed for that purpose in each boat, and presenting, in its entire, the most beautiful pyrotechnic display imaginable. The very sky, as well as the waves, the forest, and the mountains, reflected the strange, the vivid, and the changing lights, and produced a scene of transitory splendour as novel as it was grand. This ceremony appertained to the feast just as did that of placing lanterns over the tombs, and as much as did the masquerade performance already sketched.

I shall now proceed to give a somewhat copious account illustrative of the ways and means, the character, and the customs of the empire and its people, at once historical and descriptive, and gathered during the time of my visits to its shores, and which I trust will prove itself a pudding not altogether destitute of plums.

(“Hear! hear!” from a gentleman eating figs with a sweet tooth.)

## CHAPTER XI.

Japan! let not invaders desecrate thy land;  
Why should the idols which thy people serve  
As their forefathers served be now cast down?  
Why should the rude despoiler's ruthless hand  
Defile thy temples? or yet seek to swerve  
Thy people from the faith whose germ was sown  
Long generations bygone? Why assail  
A peaceful nation nobler than their own,  
To reap a wreck, and make an empire wail?  
Is this religion? If it be, alas!  
I from my soul's recesses do disclaim  
Its pestilential workings, and would pass  
It by in pity-mingled sorrow; yea, and aim  
At things more holy than such direful deeds:  
For nought, save vice, Invasion ever left,  
Nor other fruits than woe where fell its seeds.  
I speak in solemn accents, for, O world,  
The theme is rife with greatness; but bereft



Of that which I do sorrow for. Unfurled  
The sail remains which should our actions guide.  
Is it not egotistical in man  
His fellow-man's religion to deride?  
Are we not one by one God created? Can  
Humanity disown its dust, or lift  
Itself above mortality? Why, then,  
Should dust in animation claim a gift  
Of souls perverted? Or, I say again,  
Why should the strong the weaker seek to lure  
And spread with thorns, calamity, and woe,  
The path to their destruction, swift and sure?  
Invasion's victims hidden long below  
Bear witness in your spirits of the hand  
That hurried ye to death. Awake, O land  
Of Asia; and Australia proclaim  
With Africa thy wrongs. Grant that, Most High,  
The fate of Nipon ne'er may be the same;—  
That virtue still may linger 'neath its sky,  
And ages hence perpetuate its fame.  
Star of the east, by thee I'd stand or die.—AUTHOR.

JAPANESE history is endless in traditional detail, but its principal events may be briefly summed.

The first ruler of Japan on record was one Zin-mu-ten-woo,—the Divine Conqueror—who founded the long line of the Mikados, B.C. 660. These sovereigns claiming to rule by divine inheritance, were uncontrolled despots

during many centuries. The first decrease of their power arose from a practice into which they fell of transferring the sovereignty to their sons, often during infancy, themselves retaining only a regent's authority. This practice was followed by the appointment of the second son as chief military officer, and finally the alternation of that important office triennially between the second and third sons. The chief military ruler was called Ziogoon or Sjogun. At length a Mikado, who had married the daughter of a powerful prince of the empire, abdicated in favour of a son then only three years old. The father-in-law, being an ambitious man, seized the occasion to assume the regency, and succeeded in throwing the Mikado into prison. This usurpation occasioned a civil war, commenced by one Yoritomo, a noble who had espoused the cause of the imprisoned Mikado, and after several years' fighting, released and reinstated that personage, who, to reward his deliverer, conferred on him the dignity of Sjogun.

Shortly after this—A.D. 1185—the Mikado died, and Yoritomo, as his lieutenant or deputy,

governed the realm for twenty years, and at his death bequeathed his power and dignity to his son. The office thereafter became virtually hereditary ; the Sjogun wielding actual authority, the Mikado retaining the nominal autocracy of the empire. This state of affairs continued till the latter half of the sixteenth century, the sjoguns having encroached more and more upon the powers of the Mikados ; until, like the French *Rois fainéants* under the mayors of the palace, the nominal emperors had become little more than puppets in the administration of affairs, although very magnificent and costly ones—for the annals of the time describe them as little less than demi-gods ; surrounded by gold and splendour, and too spiritual for the ordinary things of earth. From that period the powers of the Ziogoon have been gradually curtailed by the Mikados, so that at the present time he is little more than the mouth-piece of the imperial council at Jeddo.

Marco Polo for seventeen years—viz: from 1275 to 1292—was a resident at the court of Kublai Khan, Emperor of Mongolia. The latter empire was then the most extensive as well as the most powerful chronicled in history. It ex-

tended across the breadth of the old Asiatic continent from the yellow, the blue, and the China seas to the Levant, the Archipelago, the Dneister of Russia, and Anatolia.

Kublai Khan was a ruthless monarch, greedy of conquest; so, not content with his recently-achieved annexation of Southern China, he, in the year 1283, sent out a great naval armament against Japan, in which, however, as the sequel imports, the Mongols were no more successful than they had been in their attempts, a few years antecedent, to hold Hungary and Poland as stepping-stones to the conquest of Germany.

The Mongolian fleet consisted of four thousand sail, fitted out in the provinces of Kiang-han, Fon-kien, Ho-pan, and Chan-tong. The armament, which was manned by two hundred and forty thousand men, started from Corea, and first landed on the island of Kiu-tchi, from whence the vessels proceeded to the island of Tonsimu, where the Mongols learned that the Japanese troops, to the number of two millions, had been long waiting their arrival. While at sea, however, in the latitude of the island of Firato, the fleet was overtaken by a violent tempest, when

nearly all the vessels which composed it were driven on shore and wrecked, so that more than a hundred thousand survivors were left all but helpless upon the island. Not despairing, however, they at once set to work in felling trees, with which to build new vessels wherein to make their escape from the Japanese territory. But the troops of the latter empire, apprized of their shipwreck, made a prompt descent upon the island, when every Mongol, three excepted, was put to the sword; and these three were spared, not out of mercy, but in order that they might be sent back to their own country, there to report to Kublia Khan the fate of his army.

The lives of ten or twelve thousand Chinese, which had been of the number, were spared, but they were banished as slaves. And so ended the one grand attempted invasion of the Empire of the Rising Sun.

It was in the year fifteen hundred and forty-two that the Portuguese first discovered the islands of Japan, and that accidentally, through the circumstance of one of their trading vessels bound to China being driven ashore by stress of weather, on to the coast of Kiusiu, the most

southern and western of the group, which is separated at the north from the great island of Nipon by a narrow strait forming, with its western portion, a right angle, within which the much smaller island of Sikokf is included. These islands were found to be divided into sixty-six separate governments, of which Nipon embraced fifty-three, Ximo, or Kiusiu nine, and Sikokf four, the numerous smaller islands being reckoned as appurtenant to one or the other of these three. These district governments, grouped into nine larger divisions, and subdivided into principalities, of which, in all, there were about six hundred, had originally been provinces of a consolidated empire; but, by degrees, and by virtue of civil wars, by which the empire had long been, and was even still distracted, they had reached, at the period of this discovery, a state of comparative independence; so much so that several of the kingdoms had disintegrated into independent principalities.

It still happened, however, that several provinces were united under one ruler, and such was particularly the case with five central provinces of Nipon, which included the great cities

of Miako (the residence of the Mikado, or spiritual emperor), Ozaka, and Sakai, which five provinces formed the patrimony of the Zoigoon—a prince who bore the title of Kubo-Sama—Sama meaning lord, and Kubo general or commander. This Kubo-Sama, or Ziigoon, as he was otherwise called, was acknowledged by all the other princes to be in some respect their superior and dictator.

The other rulers of provinces bore the title of Songo or Jacata. Reserving to themselves, as their personal domain, the greater portion of the whole extent of their territories, these chiefs divided the rest among their chief officers, which latter were denominated *Kounidamio*, who were bound to military service, and the provision and maintenance of soldiers, in proportion to the extent of the lands which they held; which lands, after reserving a portion for their private domain, these nobles distributed in turn to other inferior lords—the Torika—who held them upon similar conditions of military service, and who had still beneath them, sharing in their allotted proportion in an exactly similar manner, a class of military vassals and tenants—the Dosiu—

and corresponding as a community to the men-at-arms of the feudal times of Europe.

Under this system, Japan, alike with feudal Europe, had the ready means of gathering together, at a signal, an immense army; and the military profession being that to which all the nobles were attached, the empire was, more or less, in a constant state of turbulence and commotion.

All the above classes enjoyed the honourable and much-prized right of wearing two swords. One sword only was allowed to be worn by certain inferior officials, while merchants, traders, and artisans were confounded in this respect with the peasantry—agricultural labourers, little better than serfs, but very happy—in not being allowed to wear any such mark of distinction. The revenue of the princes and other estate holders was, and still is, reckoned in kokus of rice, each koku being equivalent to three sacks or bales, each bale containing thirty-three gantings—the universal Japanese measure for all articles, dry or liquid—and weighing eighty-two katties, or, in *plain English*, one hundred pounds, and worth a gold kobang—an oblong coin, worth



four itzabu, rounded at the ends, the surface on one side being marked with four rows of indented lines, and bearing at each end the symbolic arms of the Mikado, and between them another mark showing the value, and the seal of the mint, the other side being smooth, and bearing only the seal of the inspector-general of gold and silver money. Ten thousand kokus were equal to a *minkoku*, in which the revenues of the great princes are reckoned.

The distinction of rank was as strictly observed as it is at the present day, being even ingrained into the language—one set of words being used by superiors, and another set by inferiors, when holding converse. The latter, seated on their heels, with bent toes and crossed ankles, according to the Japanese fashion, testified their respect for their superiors by laying the palms of the hands on the floor, and bending their bodies so low that their foreheads almost touched the ground, in which position they remained for some seconds. This ceremonious form of salutation is called the *kitu*.

The superior, on the other hand, responded by laying the palms of his hands upon his

knees, and nodding or bowing more or less low, according to the rank of the other party.

As to matters requiring power of analysis, or the capacity of taking general views, the Portuguese missionaries were but poor observers; yet they could not but perceive in the Dairi—the reign of the Mikados—the surviving shadow, and, indeed, in the earlier days of the missions, something more than a mere shadow of a still more ancient form of government, in which the civil and ecclesiastical authority had both been united under one head.

The spiritual Emperor had for his residence the north-east quarter of Miako, the great central city of Nipon. This quarter was of vast extent, surrounded by a wall with a moat and rampart, by which it was separated from the rest of the city. In the midst of this place, which was well fortified, stood the imperial palace, easily distinguishable from a distance by the height of its tower, in which dwelt the Mikado and his Empress or chief wife; his other wives, eleven in number, had adjoining palaces in a circle round the royal dwelling, while the chamberlains and other officers of the household had their residences in an outer circle.

The Mikado claimed to be descended from the before-mentioned Zyn-mu, to whom tradition assigned the introduction of civilisation, coupled with the present form of government. Although taking no active part in the administration of affairs, he was invested with all the ceremonial of substantial power, and treated with the respect and reverence due to the head of the church national, which embraced all creeds.

All the revenue derived from the city of Miako and its dependencies was appropriated to the support of the Dairi or court, while the funds of the whole empire were at the command of the Emperor himself.

The Ziogoon paid an annual visit in great state to the supreme one, whom he treated with the same ceremonies, respect, and semi-worship as was rendered by the officers of the imperial household in common, and with all the carriage of an inferior. All the public acts were dated by the years of his reign, and all titles of honour emanated from him alone.

The whole court of the Dairi, and all the inhabitants of the quarter of Miako in which he dwelt, consisted of persons who plumed them-

selves upon the idea of being, like the Mikado himself, descended from Zyn-mu, otherwise Tensio Doi Dsin—the first of the demi-gods—and who, as a result, looked down, like the Indian Brahmins, upon all the rest of the nation as an inferior race. These, who may be conjectured to have formed a class resembling the old Roman patricians, all wore a distinctive dress, by which was indicated not only their character as members of that order, but by the length of their sashes the particular rank which they held in it.

Of the magnificence of the court of the Dairi, and of the ceremonials appertaining thereto, the missionaries reported many stories, chiefly, of course, on the credit of mere hearsay. It was said, and so far truthful, that the Mikado was never allowed to breathe the common air without its being perfumed, nor his foot to touch the ground ; that he never wore the same garment twice, nor ate a second time of the same dish, and so on, as the Japanese informed me at Ha-da. But beyond facts, many absurd, unattractive fictions were promulgated by these ranting Portuguese, with which I shall not

trouble the reader, as they would prove neither instructive nor amusing.

At the time of the arrival of Xavier in Japan, the throne was occupied by Gonora, the hundred and sixth Mikado in the order of succession, while the hereditary Ziagoonship was filled by Fosifer, who was succeeded in the following year by his son, the twenty-fourth of these officers since the establishment of their sub-sovereignty, in the person of Yoritomo.

Notwithstanding the general prevalence of the doctrine of Buddha, in various forms, amongst the Japanese at the time when the empire first became known to Europeans, there also existed another, and still more ancient religious system, with which the person and authority of the Mikado had been, and still were, closely identified.

This system was known as the religion of Sintoo—the reader will associate with it the temple at Simoda; a name given not only to the seven mythological personages, or celestial gods, who are supposed to have composed the first Japanese dynasty, and to the five demi or terrestrial gods, who composed the second,

(two dynasties, which, as in the similar mythology of the Egyptians and Hindoos, it is imagined extended through immense ages—incomprehensible and incalculable—antecedent to the era of Zin-mu) but including also the whole series of the Mikados, who, as I before said, traced their descent from the first of the demi-gods, and who, though regarded during their lives as mere men—“maggots of some huge earth’s burial,” as the immortal Byron calls them—yet at their deaths underwent, as in the case of the Roman Cæsars, a regular apotheosis, by which they were added to the number of the Zin, *i. e.* inhabitants of heaven.

A like apotheosis was also extended to all who were supposed to have merited it either by virtue of their sanctity, their miracles, or their great benefactions.

The Zin of the first dynasty—the seven superior gods—being regarded as too elevated above the earth to take cognisance of actions done on its surface, the chief object of the worship of the adherents of this ancient system was the goddess Tensio Dai-Dsin, (already mentioned as the first of the demi-gods,) the

supposed progenitor of the race of the Mikados and the whole order of the badged community resident in Miako.

Of this lady—the goddess—and of her heroic and miraculous deeds multifarious fables were in circulation, while even those who had forsaken the ancient religion to join newer sects, paid a sort of worship to this imagined mother of *the land of the rising sun*; and there was not a city in the empire which could not boast of a temple to her honour. On the other hand, the Sintoo faith, by its doctrine of the apotheosis of all great saints and great heroes, gave, like the old Pagan religions, a hospitable reception to all new gods, so that even the rival demi-god, Buddha, came to be regarded by many as identical with Tensio Dai-Dsin—a circumstance which will serve to explain the great intermixture of religious ideas found in Japan, and the alleged fact, very remarkable, if true, that till after the arrival of the Portuguese missionaries, religious persecution had never been known there. Each of these numerous demi-gods was supposed by the adherents of the religion of Sintoo to preside over a special paradise of his

own ; this one in the air, that one at the bottom of the sea, one in the moon, another in the sun, and others that it would puzzle more than a Philadelphia lawyer to guess where ; each devotee choosing his god according to the paradise that pleased him best—a commendably independent way too—spared no pains to gain admission into it.

What Saint Paul had said of the Athenians might with equal truth have been said of the Japanese,—they were excessively superstitious ; and this superstition had so multiplied temples, that there was scarcely a city in which, taking into consideration all the smaller chapels, the number did not seem at least equal to that of the most pious catholic countries of Europe.

The Sinto temples are in general to be found built upon eminences in retired spots, at a distance from bustle and business, surrounded by groves, and approached by a grand avenue, having a gate of carved wood or stone, and bearing a tablet or door-plate, a foot and a half square, which announces, in letters of gold, the name of the particular god to whom the temple is consecrated. These exterior appendages



would prepare the stranger for a larger and more magnificent structure than he usually finds. Detached shrines abound numerously, generally on the summits and slopes of the hills. Each usually consists of a small wooden pagoda-like building, surrounded by, and embowered in trees and shrubbery. They are about eighteen feet in length, breadth, and height, all the dimensions being equal, and with only a single grated window, through which the interior may be seen empty, or containing merely a mirror of polished metal, set in a frame of braided straw, or hung about with a fringing of white silk, or paper. Just within the entrance of the enclosure stands a font of water, by dipping in which the worshippers may purify themselves. Near the porch usually stands a chest for the reception of alms, partly by which, and partly by an allowance from the Mikado, the priests of the order are supported; while at the gate hangs a gong, on which the visitant announces his arrival to his god.

All of these are built after one architectural model—the famous one of Isje, near Miako. The worship consists in prayers, chanting, and prostrations.

Works of religious merit consist in casting a contribution into the alms chest, and avoiding or expatiating the impurities supposed to be the consequence of being touched by blood, of eating the flesh of any quadruped, except the deer, and, but to a less extent, even that of any bird, of killing any animal, of coming in bodily contact with a corpse, or even, among the more scrupulous, of seeing, hearing, or speaking of any such impurities. To these may be added, the celebration of festivals, of which there are two important ones each month,—namely, on the first and fifteenth day of it—besides five greater ones, distributed throughout the year, and lasting in some cases for several days in succession, during which, concerts, spectacles, and theatrical performances, are constantly going forward. To these may be added, the pilgrimages to which the Japanese are much addicted.

The pilgrimage esteemed by the adherents of Sinto as the most meritorious, and which all are bound to make, at least once, and which many do annually, is that of Isje, or Ixo, a central province on the south coast of Nipon, in which Tensio Dai Dsin is reported to have been

born and died, and which contains the celebrated model shrine, already mentioned.

Although it is not easy to distinguish what was peculiar, special, or original, in the system of Sintoo, yet it seems to have been much less austere than the rival doctrine of Buddha, which teaches that sorrow is inseparable from existence. The worshippers of the former faith were, on the other hand, much more disposed to look on the bright side of the picture of life, turning their religious festivals into holidays, and regarding people in sorrow or distress as unfit for the worship of the gods, whose spiritual existence ought never to be clouded by the sight of pain and misery. And this, in all probability, was one of the chief causes that enabled the religion of Buddha, which addresses itself more to the sorrowing hearts of which the world is so full, to obtain that predominancy of which the Portuguese missionaries found it in possession.

At the head of the Buddhist hierarchy was a high priest, one Xaico, having his temple at Miako. With him rested the consecration of the *Tundies*, or incumbents, it being a rule that all the Buddhist clergy were to live together, in

their respective temples or monasteries, at the head of each of which was a Tundy. These Tundies, however, could not enter upon their offices, to which great revenues were attached, except by the consent of the temporal authorities, which took care to limit the interference of the Xakio and the Tundies strictly to spiritual matters.

All the priests were at liberty to enter upon, or leave their duties, temple, or sect, at pleasure. There were, besides the regular clergy, enthusiasts who professed the power of driving away evil spirits, of finding hidden or lost treasure, of determining the guilt or innocence of accused parties, of interpreting dreams, and predicting future events, as also the curing of desperate maladies, and such other feats, which they performed chiefly through the medium of a child, into which they pretended to make a spirit enter, able to answer all their questions. These men were designated the *Tammabos* or mountain priests, one of the orders of the Sintoo religion. Yet, thus superstitious as were the Japanese, there was not wanting among them a sect of Rationalists, the natural result of freedom of

opinion, who regarded all these practices and doctrines, and even all the various creeds and religious subdivisions of the empire, with secret incredulity, not to say contempt. The members of this sect, known as the Sindosiu, and their particular faith as Sinto, and chiefly belonging to the upper classes, looked up to Confucius as their teacher ; but, so far as external observances were concerned, they conformed to the old religion of Sintoo, no doubt making themselves as jolly as possible under the circumstances.

## CHAPTER XII.

ONE of the most peculiar and prominent tenets of Buddhism is the doctrine of the transmigration of souls ; and this, in all probability, combined with the scarceness of indigenous quadrupeds, tended to produce in the Japanese a disrelish of or indifference to animal food ; this abstinence was also advocated and required by the Sintoo faith, with which it was held an impure act to take away the life of any animal ; a man's own life, of course, excepted.

From the beginning the Japanese possessed the horse, the ox, a species of buffalo, the dog, and the cat, but none of these were ever used as food.

The Portuguese introduced the sheep and the

goat, but the Japanese not caring to eat their flesh, nor to make use of their wool or hair in their manufactures, made no endeavours towards multiplying them. The Chinese introduced the hog, but it speedily degenerated into the wild boar, its flesh being alone eaten by the few foreigners in the empire. The deer and the hare were eaten by some sects, as also wild birds. The fox was hunted for the sake of its skin, the hair of which was used for the pencils used in painting and writing. The animal itself, owing to its roguish disposition, was believed to be the residence of peculiarly wicked souls, an idea deeply ingrafted in the popular mind by many strange stories in circulation. The tortoise and the crane were regarded as sacred, and never to be injured, killed, or eaten. Whales of a small species were caught, as even at the present day, and some portions of which were eaten alike with all other flesh, of which there was a great variety, shell and fin. Seaweeds were also eaten in large quantities, generally in a boiled state. I partook of a bowl of the latter at Nagasaki, which very much resembled Iceland moss, but was even superior to it.

The Japanese territory being of volcanic origin, was in some places characteristically fertile, but in many parts there were rugged and inaccessible mountains, the sides of which not admitting the use of the plough, were built up in terraces, cultivated by hand. Agriculture formed the chief occupation of the inhabitants, and they had carried it to considerable perfection.

The reader will remember that I am dealing with the sixteenth century, and although up to the present day but little change has since taken place, it is as well to be progressive in the style of narration; I have therefore chosen the past tense for that purpose.

The chief crops were rice, which was the great article of human food, after which followed wheat, used principally for vermicellis, and several kinds of peas and beans, while white barley was also largely cultivated, as horse and cattle feed.

Numerous seeds from which oils were expressed were also grown; likewise cotton and hemp, the white mulberry for the feeding of silkworms, and the paper mulberry for the manufacture of paper. To these I may add the



camphor-tree, which grew, however, only in the southern part of Ximo, the *Rhus vernix*, which produces the celebrated Japanese varnish, and the tea-plant. From rice they produced by fermentation the intoxicating liquor *saki*, which served them universally as a stimulant, and was drunk largely. A vinegar, produced from the residue of the brew or distillation, was extensively employed in the pickling of vegetables.

At this time they were as familiar with the arts of weaving silk and moulding porcelain, with gilding, engraving, painting, lacquering, sword-making, and, in fact, all the manufactures and sciences as in this christian year of 'fifty-nine. As in other eastern countries, the nobility lived in extreme magnificence; while, on the other hand, those engaged in trade and the arts were held in low esteem, and the great mass of the people were without the slightest influence in the government of affairs.

Their buildings, although in some cases stone built and massive, were principally light erections of wood, such being better adapted to a country subject to the visitations of earthquakes. But the circumstance, aided by the varnish with

which the houses were more or less covered, exposed the towns to conflagrations, which were often frequent and destructive.

Their knowledge of the sciences, whether mathematical, mixed, or purely physical, was very accurate. They possessed a copious literature, treating of natural history, theology, medicine, and the history, traditions, and religions of their own empire. The young were instructed in oratory, poetry, music, and painting, and they often excelled in theatrical representations; of which they were passionately fond. Their writing, in which brevity was the chief study and feature, was in columns, extending from the top to the bottom of the page, for which style they gave as a reason that writing ought to be a true representation of the thoughts of the writer, and that man naturally stood erect, and in such a position only ought he to commit his thoughts to paper. These columns read from right to left. The laws were very few. Heads of families exercised great power over their households. Private disputes were in general settled by arbitration; and in all criminal cases a decision was made on the spot by a magistrate, from whom there was

seldom any appeal, unless where the sentence was one of death, in which case the Ziagoon had to give his sanction to it before execution.

Whether from their disposition and fortitude, or their belief in the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, the Japanese always meet death with unflinching bravery, I cannot say; but their chronicles bear witness of much lion-heartedness in this respect. It was, indeed, as the reader is already aware, a point of honour in many cases to inflict it upon themselves, in the manner before described, by cutting open their bowels by two gashes in the shape of the letter X. The criminal thus anticipating execution, secured, by virtue of the deed, the public sympathy and applause, saving his property from confiscation, and often his family from death; while when the act was done in consequence of, or to escape or to revenge a disgrace or affront, he was considered a hero, and exalted as an upholder of the honour and magnanimity of his empire. Upon the death, in this manner, of superiors or masters, the same fate was often, as a mark of devotion and attachment, self-inflicted by their vassals. All military men, the servants

of the Ziogoon, and persons holding civil offices under the government, are bound, when they have committed any crime, to rip themselves up, but not until they have received an order from the Court of Jeddo to that effect; for if they were to anticipate this order, their heirs would in all probability be deprived of their places and property. For this reason, all the officers of government are provided, in addition to their usual dress, and that which they put on when attending conflagrations, with a suit necessary to be worn at the time of such death, which raiment consists of a white robe and a habit of ceremony made of hempen cloth, and without armorial bearings.

As soon as the order of the court has been communicated to the culprit, he invites his intimate friends for the appointed day, and regales them with saki. After they have drank together for some time, he takes leave of them, and the orders of the court are then read to him by an officer appointed for that purpose. He then returns, and generally delivers a farewell address to those assembled, after which he inclines his head towards the floor, draws his larger

sword, and inflicts the fatal cross. One of his confidential servants, stationed behind him, whom of his own free will he has deputed for the task, then with a second sword runs it through his neck. Those wishful to display superior courage, after inflicting the cross-cut, make another longitudinally, and then another through the breast.

No ignominy attaches to such a death, and the son succeeds the father in the position which he had occupied. When a man is conscious of having committed some crime, and apprehensive of being thereby disgraced, he puts an end to his own life in the same manner. This practice is so common, that hardly any notice is taken of such an event. The sons of all the nobles and gentry exercise themselves with the sword in their youth for five or six years, with a view to their being able to perform the fatal operation, in case of need, with gracefulness and dexterity; and they take as much pains to acquire a proficient knowledge of this accomplishment as our own *rising generation* do to become elegant dancers or skilful horsemen; hence the profound contempt of death

which they imbibe in early life. This disregard of life, which leads them to prefer dissolution to the slightest disgrace, extends to the very lowest classes, and throughout the whole empire.

## CHAPTER XIII.

I SHALL not weary the reader by entering into a minute detail of the fortunes of the Jesuit missionaries in Japan up to the end of the sixteenth century ; I will simply and in few words give a bird's-eye view of the events of the period. Xavier, although at first well received by the King of Satsuma, and although in the course of the ten months that he remained there baptized in his faith hundreds of the high and influential classes, yet the remonstrances of the Buddhist clergy, followed by the transfer of the Portuguese trade, for the sake of a better harbour, from Cangoxima to Firato, caused the latter

king to issue an edict forbidding his subjects, under the penalty of death, to renounce the worship of their national gods. In consequence of this, Xavier departed for Firato, an island off the west coast of Ximo, lately separated from the kingdom of Figen, and declared independent. There, under the favourable representations of the Portuguese merchants, he was well received ; but desirous of seeing the chief city of the empire, he set out with two Japanese converts on a visit to Miako.

Proceeding by water, he touched first at Facata, a considerable town on the north-west coast of Ximo, and the metropolis of the kingdom of Chichagen, and then at Amanguchi, then a large city of Nangato, the most western province of the great island of Nipon, and separated at this point from Ximo by a narrow strait. Xavier presented but a mean and sorry appearance, which contrasted greatly with his lofty miracle-working pretensions, and the result of his visit to Amanguchi was, that he was driven out of the city before the potent influence of stones and curses. From this place to Miako he journeyed in the capacity of servant to some merchant



equestrians travelling to that city. Rich in rags and grace, he entered the precincts of the spiritual metropolis at a time when it was just recovering from the ruinous effect of civil wars, and on the eve of renewed turmoil. He failed in obtaining an audience of the Emperor, or yet of any member of the royal court, and the populace listened to him but with indifference. He, therefore, having clad himself in new raiment, returned to Amanguchi, there to work upon the imagination of the people, by pomp and display, instead of by showing a contempt, not merely for elegancies, but even for common comfort, as he had done on the occasion of his first visit. Here he was now allowed to preach, and an unoccupied temple was placed at his disposal. He remained a year in this city, during which time he gained and baptised more than three thousand converts. From this he proceeded to Fuchio, in the kingdom of Bungo, en route for the Indies, for the purpose of bringing back with him fresh labourers in the spiritual field. The people of that place were agreeably impressed in his favour, contrary to expectation, for throughout Bungo, in particular, he had been represented

by the priests—Buddhist and Sintoo—as so miserable a vagabond as to disgust the very vermin with which he was covered—that he was an enchanter, through whose mouth a demon spoke, and a cannibal, who fed on dead bodies, which he dug up during the night. (“*Flattering?*”)

At Amanguchi, after Xavier’s departure, the national priesthood, naturally much opposed to him, succeeded in reclaiming many of the perverted, and retained more successfully their hold over the people. An insurrection now raised by the Buddhist clergy, so alarmed the King, that he shut himself up in his palace, set it on fire, and having slain his only son, performed the fatal cross upon himself immediately afterwards. (Again I am haunted by the recollection of that morning scene at Simoda.) The missionaries, however, escaped through all this, partly under the sheltering influence of a converted princess.

A brother of the deceased King, having been elected monarch, affairs resumed their wonted order, and the Portuguese missions promised even greater fruits than before. Xavier returned no more to Japan. In the month of December, 1552, and in his forty-sixth year, he

yielded up the ghost on his way to China, at the island of Sanciam, near Macao. He had, however, dispatched, since leaving Japan, three new missionaries from Malacca to that country. The Portuguese, now more fanatical than ever, strove to swell the number of their converts. Additional priests, fresh from Portugal, were arriving, and the labourers went to work with zeal and renewed vigour.

Meanwhile, the parts of Japan which they infested with their baneful presence were the scene of serious civil commotion. The King of Bungo had, indeed, confirmed his power, by suppressing an insurrection; but his brother, the King of Nungato, had been driven from his throne, and defeated and slain by Marindono, a relative of the late monarch. During this civil war, the city of Amanguchi had been sacked and burnt, and the missionaries there stationed were obliged to fly for their lives to Bungo, the metropolis. There, too, a new insurrection had been attempted, but again without success, though the King still kept himself shut up in a fortress at a distance from the capital.

The extension of the dominions of the King

of Bungo over the greater part of the island of Ximo, which took place in the year 1557, shortly following, was very favourable to the cause of the new religion. The Prince of Firato was compelled to pay him tribute, and the new doctrine of the Portuguese continued to spread over his territories, where even some of the members of the royal family embraced its teachings. A new church was established at Facata, and the old and original one at Cangoxana was rebuilt. Very soon the new faith became promulgated, and adopted in the kingdoms of Arima and Gotto, which, as well as Firato, had been separated from the ancient province of Figen. The prince of Ximabara, the latter a place afterwards famous as the last stronghold of the Catholics, invited the missionaries to his city. The King of Arima was also very friendly; he gave them an establishment, first at Vocoxiura, and after that city had been burned by the Buddhist priesthood, in order to rid it of the Portuguese, at a town called Cochinetzu, on the southern coast of the south-western peninsula of Ximo. The Prince of Omura, a dependency of Arima, (Give me my Gazetteer!) and the Prince of the island of Ta-

cuxima, were each among the converts, and zealously endeavoured to induce their subjects to follow their example. Here was a harvest for the missionaries ; all Ximo, and many parts of Nipon, were singing aloud their praises. The Buddhist clergy waxed more and more wroth. Their cry was "*Fujala voci !*" or, in other words, *Confound the Jesuits !*

A few years later, the baptised Prince of Omura, not content with iconoclastic spoliation, and refusing to join in the old national festivities, wished also to prohibit all the ceremonies appertaining to the national religions, and compel his subjects to adopt new ones. Here was an excess of zeal, sickening in its intolerance, and which fostered an union against it of all who adhered to the original order of things, and at last brought about the entire destruction of the new sect. Omura had allowed certain Portuguese merchants to establish themselves at Nagasaki, then a mere fishing village. In 1568, he built a church there, and invited the missionaries to make it their head quarters, with a promise that no religion but theirs should be allowed. The invitation was accepted, many converts

flocked thither, and Nagasaki soon became a considerable city.

In 1582, up to which time the missions had continued to flourish, and the Portuguese influence to grow wider each succeeding year, the converted kings of Bungo and Arima, Isle of Ximo, determined, under the advice of the Catholic priesthood, to send ambassadors to be the bearers of their submission to the Pope. For this purpose two young nobles were selected, the one sixteen years of age, the other only fifteen,—the former Prince of Piunga, and son of a niece to the King of Bungo,—the latter Prince of Arima, cousin of the King of Arima, and nephew of the Prince of Omura. They were attended by two counsellors somewhat older than themselves, by Fathers Diego de Mesquita and Valignani, as their preceptors and interpreters, and by a Japanese Jesuit, and they sailed from Nagasaki on the 20th of February in that year. They arrived at Macao after a very stormy passage of seventeen days, but the season of sailing for Malacca being past, they had to wait there nine months. Finally, after a passage of twenty-nine days, and on the 27th of January, 1583, they

reached Malacca. After resting at the latter place eight days, they embarked for Goa, which third voyage proved itself not less tempestuous at the outset than the two preceding it; but in the latitude of Ceylon calms were experienced, and in consequence of the supply of water and provisions having ran short, many hardships had to be endured.

At length they reached Travancore, at the south-eastern extremity of the peninsula of India, whence they journeyed by land to the neighbouring port of Cochin. Here, owing to the unfavourable monsoon, they had to wait six months before they could sail for Goa, at which capital of Portuguese-India they arrived in September. The Viceroy of the Indies received them with great hospitality, and supplied them with a vessel, in which they had a favourable passage round the Cape of Good Hope, arriving at Lisbon on the 10th of August, 1584.

Four years antecedent to this, Portugal had passed under the rule of Philip the Second, of Spain, and to him these ambassadors were charged with a friendly message. The Viceroy of Portugal received them at Lisbon with every attention. At Madrid they were received by the

King himself with much ceremony and the most flattering distinction.

Having traversed Spain, they embarked at Alicante, but were driven by a storm into the island of Majorca, escaping in consequence an Algerine fleet and a Turkish squadron, both of which were cruising in that neighbourhood; sailing thence, they arrived at Leghorn, where Pierro de Medici, brother of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, was waiting to attend them. They spent the carnival at Pisa, and from that proceeded to Florence, and from thence towards Rome. These were the first Japanese that visited Europe.

Aquiviva, general of the Jesuits, and the fourth successor of Loyola, was very pressing with the Pope for a reception without display; but Gregory XIII., (the name to whom we owe the reform of the Calendar), had determined in consistency that the honour of the Church and of the Holy See required an opposite course, therefore the ambassadors were met at Viterbo by the Pope's light horse, and were escorted into the city by a long cavalcade of Roman nobles. The whole of the Corso up to Jesus, the church and house of the Jesuits, where the ambassadors



were to lodge, was crowded with people, who hailed their arrival with vociferous cheers. As they alighted from their carriage, they were received by Father Aquiviva, attended by all the Jesuits then in Rome, who conducted them to the church, where a *Te Deum* was chanted.

On the day following, a magnificent procession was formed to escort them to the Vatican. It was headed by the light-horse, followed by the Pope's Swiss Guard, the officers of the cardinals, the carriages of the ambassadors of Spain, France, Venice, and the Roman Princes, the whole Roman nobility on horseback, the pages and officers of the ambassadors, with trumpets and cymbals, the chamberlains of the Pope and of the officers of the palace, all in red robes. Then followed the Japanese on horseback, and clad in their national dress, three silken gowns, and of a light fabric, one over the other, and splendidly embroidered in bright colours, with birds, fruits, and flowers, on a white ground, and with the customary brace of swords in their sashes, but with their heads bare. (I always found it more common to meet a Japanese without his hat than with it.) A great

number of gaily dressed courtiers closed the procession.

The crowds which filled the streets and the windows looked on in almost breathless silence. As the ambassadors crossed the bridge of St. Angelo, all the cannon of the castle were fired, to which those of the Vatican responded; at which signal all the bands struck up, and continued to play till the hall of audience was reached.

The ambassadors approached the foot of the papal throne, each with the letter of his Prince in his hand; prostrating themselves at the Pope's feet, they declared in Japanese, that they had come to acknowledge in the person of the Pope the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and to render obedience to him in the name of the princes, of whom they were the envoys, and also for themselves. The Father de Mesquita expressed in Latin what they had said; but the appearance of the young men themselves, who had essayed so many dangers and fatigues, to come to pay their homage to the holy see, was more expressive than mere words; and tears and sobs escaped from the greater part of the audience.

The Pope himself, greatly agitated, hastened to raise them up, kissed their foreheads, and embraced them many times, unconsciously baptizing them with his tears. They were then conducted to an alcove, while the secretary of the consistory read the letters from the princes, which Father de Mesquita had translated into Italian.

This was followed by an address by Father Gonzales, referring chiefly to the revolt in Europe, against the authority of the Pope, which Philip II., no less than the latter, was at that time vigorously labouring to put down by the introduction of the Jesuits into the Netherlands, where the Protestant rebels had been suppressed by war against Holland, by aiding the French leaguers, by countenancing the retrograde movement, then in rapid progress in Germany, and by preparing to carry out against Elizabeth of England the sentence of deposition which the Pope had fulminated against her.

To this address in Italian, alleged to be expressive of the sentiments of the Japanese re-

garding the universal dominion and prosperity of the Roman faith, one Antony Bocapaduli replied in Latin in the Pope's name. This reply being ended, the ambassadors were conducted to the foot of the throne, where they had again the privilege of kissing the great toe of the great man. After this, the cardinals drawing near, embraced them, and put to them many questions as to their country and their travels, which tested all the translative powers of the holy father, their interpreter.

At length the Pope rose, the ambassadors were directed to lift up the train of his robes, and follow him to his apartment. Afterwards the cardinals entertained them at a magnificent dinner ; a private audience followed, at which they delivered the presents they had brought, and the Pope announced that he had endowed the new seminary at Fucheo with an annual donation of four thousand Roman crowns.

Gregory XIII. died a few days after this, but his successor, Sixtus V., who as cardinal of Monte Alto had been much impressed in favour of the Japanese, was not less so to them as Pope. They assisted among the other am-

bassadors of kings at his coronation, bearing the canopy and holding the basin for his holiness to wash in, when he said mass.

They had the same honours when the pontiff was enthroned at Saint John Lateran. The holy father afterwards invited them to visit his country house, where they were splendidly entertained, and regaled on his behalf, by his steward, and four-and-twenty prelates.

Finally, and on the eve of the Ascension, they were dubbed knights of the gilded spurs. The Pope himself girded on their swords, while the spurs alluded to were buckled on by the ambassadors of France and Venice. After this, the Pope placed round their necks chains of gold, to which his medal was attached, and kissed and embraced them. The next day his holiness said mass in person, and they communicated from his hand. He dismissed them soon afterwards with briefs, addressed to their princes, in reply to those received.

From Rome, escorted out of the city with all honours, the ambassadors went by way of Loretto, where they paid their devotion to Venice, and thence to Milan and Genoa, at which latter

place they embarked for Barcelona. They declined, as they had been so long from home, to visit France, although Henry III. had sent them a pressing invitation to do so. Another audience was obtained with Philip II., after which they departed for Lisbon, from which place they sailed on their return voyage on the 13th of April, 1586, arriving safely in their own country two years afterwards, having lingered long at Macao, and other places on the way.

## CHAPTER XIV.

ON the return of the two fathers, the two ambassadors, and the two counsellors to Nagasaki, leave was obtained for them to visit the emperor's court at Miako. The reader will understand that whenever the emperor is mentioned, allusion is made to the Mikado, and not to the Ziogoon, or temporal emperor. When I spoke about two emperors of Japan to an official at Nagasaki, he answered me as though I had meant dishonour to the Mikado, emphatically assuring me, with much reverence of manner, in accordance with the sacredness of the subject, that *Japan had only one Emperor ; he had his*

*palace at Miako, and the Ziogoon was his chief minister, representing the imperial government at Jeddo.*

The Portuguese merchants at Nagasaki, to the number of twenty-eight, accompanied their priests and the ambassadors, with much display, sparing no expense to give magnificence to their train. The ambassadors had learned to sing in the European style, and they chanted church music in a manner new to their fellow-countrymen. They had with them a great show of maps, globes, clocks, watches, musical instruments, and other European curiosities, which attracted much attention. Their description of what they had seen and heard made a deep impression upon the princes and nobles who flocked from all quarters to see them. The embassy was received at Miako with all honour; and the pomp which accompanied it strongly prepossessed the inhabitants in its favour.

On the day of audience Dainangandono, nephew and heir presumptive of the Mikado, attended by a retinue of reigning princes, met the ambassadors, and conducted them to the great hall of audience. This hall, which opened upon



a magnificent balcony, before which spread a parterre of great beauty, consisted of five several divisions, rising amphitheatrically one above the other. The first served as an antechamber or hall of waiting for the gentlemen in attendance. The two next were allotted to the princes of the court and the great officers of the empire—where they were arranged in order according to their rank. The fourth division was occupied by a Sintoo priest, who held the highest dignity in the imperial household, beside whom sat his chief counsellor. By the side of the latter Dainangandono took his place, after introducing Father Valignani, ambassador from the Pope, as also the returned ambassadors, to the fifth and highest apartment, in which the emperor was seated alone, in the ordinary Japanese fashion, upon an elevated throne, approached by steps on all sides.

Father Valignani was preceded by one of the Portuguese members of his suite, bearing the brief, written in gilded letters upon fine vellum, with a seal of gold attached to it, the whole being enclosed in a small, tastefully wrought box.

A signal having been given, Valignani was

led up the steps of the throne to the Emperor's feet, whom, on bended knee, he saluted after the European fashion, by kissing his hand—a privilege to which all the members of his suite were admitted in succession, he having, meanwhile, been conducted into the third compartment, where were assembled the high officers of state. Tea was then served to the Emperor in a gilded cup, after sipping from which, he sent for Valignani, making him a present of a hundred silver platters, and four silk dresses. Presents were also distributed amongst the members of his suite. The emperor then retired, directing, however, his nephew to entertain the visitors at dinner, which was done. The guests consisted of three members of the imperial family, and eight other princes, each eating from his own little table or salver, in profound silence, while several attendants knelt and stood round them.

The Jesuits were again sanguine of great results.

## CHAPTER XV.

EVEN before the time of the Japanese princes' departure from Nagasaki for Rome, the Emperor of Japan had been making preparations for the invasion of Corea. An extensive fleet was now equipped; and, with eighty thousand men on board, sailed in four divisions from the island of Kiusiu. The grand admiral soon made rapid progress—having taken two places by assault, all the others, so far as the capital, opened their gates. Unwilling, however, to surrender their metropolis, the Coreans fought and lost a pitched battle. A second victory ensued, and the Corean king fled before the

invaders, and sought refuge in China, while his capital was left in the hands of the triumphant Japanese. Reinforcements were sent, which swelled the Japanese army to the number of two hundred thousand men. But the Koreans, before abandoning their cities, and fleeing to inaccessible places, burned everything, even to provisions, which they were unable to carry away ; so that the Japanese army was soon reduced to extreme necessities, by which its numbers were rapidly decimated. The Chinese here came to the assistance of the Koreans, and the Japanese forces, now inferior in point of numbers to the enemy, were compelled to encounter the augmented troops in several desperate engagements. The Japanese were driven to retreat, but at length, after a drawn battle under the walls of the capital, terms of peace were agreed upon, by which five of the eight provinces of Corea were assigned to the Mikado of Japan ; and the commerce between China and Japan, which, by a provoking act of the Chinese, had for some years been broken off, was again renewed. The admiral was styled Viceroy of Corea, and the princes of the army, chiefly Catholic con-

verts, were detained there at the head of their troops.

The Emperor, now, 1595, at the height of his power, and fanned by success, made great preparations for receiving an embassy from China. Suddenly, Japan was visited by a frightful and disastrous earthquake. A new city, which he had just built near Miako—Fusimi—was nearly destroyed. The sea rose to an extraordinary height, especially in the strait running between Nipon and Sikokf, and flooded large tracts of country, which resulted in a terrible destruction of life and property. After this, the Chinese ambassadors arrived. The results of their mission, however, did not at all answer the anticipations of the Emperor, as they demanded nothing less than the entire evacuation of Corea—a demand which speedily led to a renewal of the war.

In the year following, a richly laden Spanish galleon from the Philippine Islands was driven by adverse winds on to the coast of Japan, and there entered a harbour on the south coast of Sikokf, where she was immediately seized by the local authorities, and forfeited. The master

or captain of the vessel expostulated and entreated, but all in vain. He then tried the expedient of expatiating on the power of the King of Spain, the extent of whose dominions in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, he exhibited on a map of the world.

In answer to enquiries as to how such vast and remote territories had been gained, the Spaniard said that the plan was very simple; that the king began by sending missionaries into the countries he wished to conquer, who, as soon as they had converted a part of the inhabitants, were followed by troops, which latter, being joined by the converts, soon succeeded in subduing the country.

I may here remind the reader that notwithstanding the union of the crowns of Spain and Portugal upon the head of Philip II., a very fierce jealousy and hatred existed between the two nations.

This statement of the Spaniard was immediately reported to the emperor, who no sooner heard it than he became alarmed at the presence of the Portuguese, and ordered guards to be placed at the doors of the Franciscan convents

at Miako and Osaka, at which latter, since the earthquake, the imperial court had been held. Guards were also placed at the houses of the Jesuits.

On the 3rd of January, 1597, twenty-four Jesuit prisoners were taken to a public square in Miako, where each of them had the tip of his left ear cut off, after which they were placed in carriages and paraded about the streets. A similar ceremony soon afterwards took place in Sakai and Osaka with regard to the same prisoners, who were then sent to Nagasaki to be executed. At all the towns and cities on the way they were made a spectacle of and derided, in order to terrify those of the same faith; two others were added to their numbers on the way for ministering to the comforts of the denounced, and publicly repudiating the national religion.

The place of execution was not that made use of on ordinary occasions, but a hill bordering on the sea in the bay of Nagasaki, and to this day known as the Mount of Martyrs, to which title it gained a still further claim by becoming the scene of many subsequent executions; it became

also a place of pilgrimage for the adherents of the Roman faith, as long as it lingered in Japan. The prisoners were followed to this hill by an excited crowd, who with tears and benedictions besought their prayers. They were put to death by crucifixion, which, however, according to the method adopted by the Japanese, is not a lingering punishment.

The prisoners were bound, not nailed to the cross, after which their bodies were immediately pierced by a lance thrust in at the sides and coming out at the shoulders. The earth, wet with their blood, was eagerly gathered up by the bystanders, and there was much wailing. This was the first execution of the adherents of the new faith in Japan, and was followed by the destruction of a hundred and forty-two churches, and of many houses which had belonged to the missionaries.

In the September of the year following—1598—and at the age of sixty-four, having retained his absolute authority to the last, the emperor died. During his latter years his mind had been chiefly engrossed by two objects, namely, the securing of divine honours to him-



self, and the transmission of his authority to his infant son, Fide Jori, now in his fourth year only. He had recently built, in a magnificent manner, many new temples and Buddhist monasteries. One of the former, the largest in the empire, he had dedicated to himself. In order the better to secure the succession of his infant son, the expiring emperor established a council of regency, composed of nine princes. The strong castle of Osaka had been already chosen as the residence of the infant emperor, and there he was still appointed to dwell in charge of his mother, while the administration of affairs passed into the hands of the regency, headed by Ge-jas, ex-king of Micava, who now governed under the title of Daysa-Sama.

The first act of the regency was to put an end to the Korean war. That country was abandoned, and the return of the Japanese army, including so many converted princes, greatly strengthened the lately suffering church. The head of the regency was even thought to be well disposed towards the missionaries. Churches were rebuilt—new converts were again made,